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A TOKEN FOR CHILDREN

BEING

An Exact Account of the Conversion, Holy and Exemplary Lives, and Joyful Deaths, of several young Children.

By *James Janeway*, Minister of the Gospel.

——*Suffer little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the Kingdom of God:* 10. 14.

LONDON,
Printed for *Dorman Newman*, at the *Kings Arms* at the Corner of *Grocers* Alley in the *Poultrey*, 1679.

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Jerry Reynolds

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1876

To all Parents, School-masters and School-Mistresses, or any that have any hand in the Education of Children.

Dear Friends,

I Have oft thought that *Christ* speaks to you, as *Pharoah*'s Daughter did to *Mose*'s Mother, Take this Child and Nurse it for me. O Sirs, consider what a precious Jewel is committed to your charge, what an advantage you have to shew your love to *Christ*, to stock the next Generation with Noble Plants, and what a joyful account you may make, if you be faithful: Remember, Souls, Christ and Grace, cannot be over-valued. I confess you have some disadvantages, but let that only excite your

diligence; the Salvation of Souls, the commendation of your Master, the greatness of your reward, and everlasting glory, will pay for all. Remember the Devil is at work hard, wicked ones are Industrious, and a corrupt nature is a rugged knotty piece to hew; but be not discouraged, I am almost as much afraid of your laziness and unfaithfulness, as any thing. Do but fall to work lustily, and who knows but that rough stone may prove a Pillar in the Temple of God? In the Name of the living God, as you will answer it shortly at his Bar, I command you to be faithful in Instructing and Catechizing your young ones; If you think I am too peremptory, I pray read the command from my Master himself, *Deut.* 6.7. Is not the duty clear? and dare you neglect so direct a Command? Are the Souls of your Children of no value? Are you willing

that

that they ſhould be Brands of Hell? Are you indifferent whether they be Damned or Saved? ſhall the Devil run away with them without controul? Will not you uſe your utmoſt endeavour to deliver them from the wrath to come? you ſee that they are not Subjects uncapable of the Grace of God! whatever you think of them, Chriſt doth not ſlight them; they are not too little to dye, they are not too little to go to Hell, they are not too little to ſerve their great Maſter, too little to go to Heaven; *For of ſuch is the Kingdom of God:* And will not a poſſibility of their Converſion and Salvation, put you upon the greateſt diligence to teach them? Or are Chriſt, and Heaven, and Salvation, ſmall things with you? If they be, then indeed I have done with you: but if they be not, I beſeech you lay about you with all your might; the Devil

knows your time is going apace, it will shortly be too late. O therefore what you do, do quickly; and do it, I say, with all your *might*; O pray, pray, pray, and live holily before them, and take some time daily to speak a little to your Children, one by one, about their miserable condition by Nature: I knew a Child that was converted by this sentence, from a godly School-mistress in the Country, *Every Mothers Child of you are by Nature Children of wrath.* Put your Children upon Learning their Catechism, and the Scriptures, and getting to pray and *weep* by themselves after *Christ*: Take heed of their company; take heed of pardoning a lye; take heed of letting them mispend the Sabbath; put them, I beseech you, upon imitating these sweet Children; let them Read this Book over an hundred times, and observe how

how they are *affected*, and ask them what they think of thoſe Children, and whether they would not be ſuch? and follow what you do with earneſt cries to God, and be in travel to ſee Chriſt formed in their Souls. I have prayed for you, I have oft prayed for your Children, and I love them dearly; and I have prayed over theſe papers; that God would ſtrike in with them, and make them effectual to the good of their Souls. Incourage your Children to read this Book, and lead them to improve it. What is preſented, is faithfully taken from experienced ſolid Chriſtians, ſome of them no way related to the Children, who themſelves were Eye and Ear-witneſſes of God's works of Wonder; or from my own knowledg, or from Reverend godly Miniſters, and from perſons that are of unſpotted reputation for Holineſs, Integrity and Wiſ-

dom; and several passages are taken *verbatim* in writing from their dying Lips. I may add many other excellent Examples, if I have any encouragment in this Piece. That the young generation may be far more excellent than this, is the Prayer of one that dearly loves little Children.

James Janeway.

A

PREFACE:

Containing

DIRECTIONS

TO

CHILDREN

YOU may now hear (my dear Lambs) what other good Children have done, and remember how they wept and prayed by themselves; how earnestly they cryed out for an interest in the Lord Jesus Christ: *May you not read how dutiful they were to their Parents? How diligent at their Books?*

Books? how ready to learn the Scripture, and their Catechisms? Can you forget what Questions they were wont to ask? How much they feared a lye, how much they abhorred naughty company how holy they lieved, how dearly they, were loved, how joyfully they died?

But tell me, my dear Children, and tell me truly, Do you do as these Children did? Did you ever see your miserable state by Nature? Did you ever get by your self and weep for sin, and pray for grace and pardon? Did you ever go to your Father and Mother, or Master, or Mistress, and beg of them to pitty you, and pray for you, and to teach you what you shall do to be saved, what you shall do to get Christ, Heaven and Glory? Dost thou love to be taught good things? Come tell me truly, my dear Child; for I would fain do what I can possibly to keep thee from falling into everlasting Fire. I would fain have you one of these little ones, which Christ will take

take into his Arms and bleſs: How doſt thou ſpend thy time? is it in play and Idleneſs, and with wicked Children? Dare you take Gods Name in vain, or ſwear, or tell a lie? Dare you do any thing which your Parents forbid you, and neglect to do what they command you? Do you dare to run up and down upon the Lords day? or do you keep in to read your book, and to learn what your good Parents command you? What do you ſay, Child? Which of theſe two ſorts are you of? Let me talk a little with you, and ask you a few Queſtions.

1. *Were not theſe Children ſweet Children, which feared God, and were dutifull to their Parents? Did not their Fathers and Mothers, and every body that fears God, love them, and praiſe them? What do you think is become of them, now they are dead and gone? Why, they are gone to Heaven, and are ſinging Hallelujahs with the Angels: They ſee glorious things, and having nothing but joy and pleaſure*

they

they shall never sin no more, they shall never be beat any more, they shall never be sick, or in pain any more.

2 *And would not you have your Fathers love, your Mothers commendation; your Masters good word? Would not you have God and Christ love you? And would you not fain go to Heaven when you die? And live with your godly Parents in Glory, and be happy for ever?*

3. *Whither do you think those Children go, when they dye, that will not do what they are bid, but play the Truant, and Lye, and speake naughty words, and break the Sabbath? Whither do such Children go, do you think? Why, I will tell you, they which Lye, must to their Father the Devil into everlasting burning; they which never pray, God will pour out his wrath upon them; and when they beg and pray in Hell Fire, God will not forgive them, but there they must lye for ever.*

4. *And are you willing to go to*

Hell

Hell to be burned with the Devil and his Angels? Would you be in the same condition with naughty Children? O Hell is a terrible place, that's worse a thousand times than whipping? Gods anger is worse than your Fathers anger; and are you willing to anger God? O Child, this is most certainly true, that all that be wicked, and die so, must be turned into Hell; and if any be once there, there is no coming out again.

5. *Would you not do any thing in the world rather than be thrown into Hell Fire? would you not do any thing in the world to get Christ, and grace and glory.*

6. *Well now, what will you do? will you read this book a little, because your good Mother will make you do it; and because it is a little new book, but as soon as ever you have done, run away to play, and never think of it?*

7. *How art thou now affected, poor Child in the Reading of this Book? Have you shed ever a tear since you*

be gun

they shall never sin no more, they shall never be beat any more, they shall never be sick, or in pain any more.

2. *And would not you have your Fathers love, your Mothers commendation; your Masters good word? Would not you have God and Christ love you? And would you not fain go to Heaven when you die? And live with your godly Parents in Glory, and be happy for ever?*

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5. *Would you not do any thing in the world rather than be thrown into Hell Fire? would you not do any thing in the world to get Chriſt, and grace and glory.*

6. *Well now, what will you do? will you read this book a little, becauſe your good Mother will make you do it, and becauſe it is a little new book, but as ſoon as ever you have done, run away to play, and never think of it?*

7. *How art thou now affected, poor Child in the Reading of this Book? Have you ſhed ever a tear ſince you*

be gun

begun reading? Have you been by your self upon your knees, and begging that God would make you like these blessed Children? or are you as you use to be, as careless, and foolish and disobedient, and wicked as ever?

8. *Did you never hear of a little Child that died? and if other Children die, why may not you be sick and die? and what will you do then, Child, if you should have no grace in your heart, and be found like other naughty children?*

9. *How do you know but that you may be the next Child that may die? and where are you then, if you be not God's Child?*

10. *Wilt thou tarry any longer, my dear Child, before thou run into thy chamber, and beg to God to give thee a Christ for thy Soul, that thou mayest not be undone for ever? Wilt thou get presently into a corner to weep and pray? Methinks I see that pretty Lamb begin to weep, and thinks of getting by himself, and will*

as

as well as he can cry unto the Lord, to make him one of these little ones that go into the Kingdom of Heaven; Methinks there stands a sweet Child, and there another, that are resolved for Christ and for Heaven: Methinks that little Boy looks as if he had a mind to learn good things. Methinks I heare one say, well, I will never tell a lye more, I will never keep any naughty Boy company more, they will teach me to swear, and they will speak naughty words, they do not love God. I'le learn my Catechism, and get my Mother to teach us to pray, and I will go to weep and cry to Christ, and will not be quiet till the Lord hath given me Grace. O that's my brave Child indeed!

11. *But will you not quickly forget your promise? are you resolved by the strength of Christ to be a good Child? Are you indeed? nay, but are you indeed? Consider: dear Child,*

God

God calls you to remember your Creator in the days of your Youth; and he takes it kindly when little ones come to him, and loves them dearly; and godly people, especially Parents, and Masters and Mistresses, they have no greater joy, than to see their Children walk in the way of truth.

Now tell me, my pretty dear Child, What will you do? shall I make you a Book? Shall I pray for you, and entreat you,? Shall your good Mother weep over you? And will not you make us all glad, by your turning quickly to the Lord? Shall Christ tell you that he will love you? And will not you love him? Will you strive to be like these Children? I am perswaded, that God intends to do good to the Souls of some little Children by these papers, because he hath laid it so much upon my heart to pray for them, and over these papers, and thorow mercy I have already experienced, that something of this nature hath not been in vain: I shall give

wor

word of direction, and ſo leave you.

1. *Take heed of what you know is naught; as lying, O that is a grievous fault indeed; and naughty words, and taking the Lords name in vain, and playing upon the Lords Day, and keeping bad company, and playing with ungodly Children: But, if you go to School with ſuch, tell them that God will not love them, but that the Devil will have them, if they continue to be ſo naught.*

2. *Do what your Father and Mother bids you, chearfully; and take heed of doing any thing that they forbid you.*

3. *Be diligent in reading the Scripture, and learning your Catechiſm; and what you do not underſtand, to be ſure ask the meaning of.*

4. *Think a little ſometimes by your ſelf about God and Heaven, and your Soul, and what Chriſt came into the world for.*

5. *And if you have no great mind*

to

to do thus, but had rather be at play, then think what is it that makes me that I do no not care for good things; is this like one of Gods dear Children? I am afraid I am none of God's Child, I feel I do not love to come unto Him: O, what shall I do? Either I will be God's Child or the Devils; O, what shall I do? I would not be the Devils Child for any thing in the world.

6. *Then go to your Father or Mother, or some good body, and ask them what thou shalt do to be Gods Child; and tell them that thou art afraid, and that thou canst not be contented, till thou hast got the love of God.*

7. *Get by thy self, into the Chamber or Garret, and fall upon thy knees, and weep and mourn, and tell Christ thou art afraid that he doth not love thee, but thou would fain have his love; beg of him to give thee his Graceand pardon for thy sins, and that he would make thee his Child: Tell God thou dost not care who don't love thee, if God will but love thee: say to him*

Father

Father, haſt thou not a bleſſing for me thy poor little Child? Father, haſt thou not a bleſſing for me, even for me? O give a Chriſt; O give me a Chriſt; O let me not be undone for ever: thus beg, as for your lives, and be not contented till you have an anſwer; and do thus every day, with as much earneſtneſs as you can, twice a day at leaſt.

8. *Give your ſelf up to Chriſt: ſay, dear Jeſus, thou didſt bid that little Children ſhould be ſuffered to come unto thee; and Lord, I am come as well as I can, would fain be thy Child: take my heart, and make it humble, and meek, and ſenſible, and obedient: I give my ſelf the, dear Jeſus, do what thou wilt with me, ſo that thou wilt but love me, and give me thy grace and Glory.*

9. *Get acquainted with godly people, and ask them good queſtions, and endevour to love their talk.*

10. *Labour to get a dear love for* Chriſt; *read the Hiſtory of Chriſt's ſufferings*

sufferings, and ask the reason of his sufferings; and never be contented till you see your need of Christ, and the excellency and use of Christ.

11. *Hear the most powerful Ministers; and read the most searching Books; and get your Father to buy you* Mr. White's *Book for little Children, and* A Guide to Heaven.

12. *Resolve to continue in well-doing all your days, then you shall be one of those sweet little ones that Christ will take into his Arms, and bless, and give a Kingdom, Crown and Glory to. And now dear Children, I have done, I have written to you, I have prayed for you; but what you will do, I can't tell. O Children, if you love me, if you love your Parents, if you love your Souls, if you would scape Hell Fire, and if you would live in Heaven when you dye, do you go and do as these good Children; and that you may be your Parents joy, your Countreys honour, and live in Gods fear, and dye in his love, is the prayer of your dear Friend.* J. Janeway.

A TOKEN FOR CHILDREN:

EXAMPLE I.

Of one eminently converted between Eight and Nine years old, with an account of her Life and Death.

MRS. *Sarah Howley, when* ſhe was between eight and nine years old, was carried by her Friends

Friends to hear a Sermon, where the Minister Preached upon *Matthew* 11.30. *My yoak is easie, and my burden is light*: In the applying of which Scripture, this Child was mightily awakened, and made deeply sensible of the condition of her Soul, and her need of a Christ; she wept bitterly to to think what a case she was in to and went home and got by her self into a Chamber, and upon her knee she wept and cryed to the Lord as well as she could, which might easily be perceived by her eyes and countenance.

2. She was not contented at this but she got her little Brother and Sister into a Chamber with her, and told them of their condition by nature and wept over them, and prayed with them and for them.

3. After this she heard another Sermon upon *Prov.* 29. 1, *He that being often reproved, hardeneth his heart, shall suddenly be destroyed* and

: th*and that without remedy*: At which
hen he was more affected than before,
bur and was ſo exceeding ſolicitous
hich about her Soul, that ſhe ſpent a
ntil great part of the night in weeping
ſibl and praying, and could ſcarce take
l he any reſt day or night for ſome time
ter l together; deſiring with all her *Soul*
in to eſcape from everlaſting flames,
r ſel and to get an intereſt in the Lord
nee Jeſus; O what ſhould ſhe do for a
ord Chriſt! what ſhould ſhe do to be
igh ſaved!

an 4. She gave her ſelf much to at-
tending upon the Word Preached,
thi and ſtill continued very tender un-
ander it, greatly favouring what ſhe
, an heard.

on b 5. She was very much in ſecret
an prayer, as might eaſily be preceived
a. by thoſe who liſtened at the Cham-
oth oer Door, and was uſually very im-
e th portunate, and full of tears.

b h 6. She could ſcarce ſpeak of ſin,
yed or be ſpoke to, but her heart was

ready to melt.

7. She ſpent much time in read-
ing the Scripture, and a Book called
The beſt Friends in the worſt times,
by which the work of God was
much promoted upon her Soul, and
was much directed by it how to go
acquaintance with God, eſpecially
toward the end of that Book. An-
nother Book that ſhe was much de-
lighted with, was Mr. *Swinnock's*
Chriſtians Mans Calling, and by
this ſhe was taught in this meaſure
to make Religion her buſineſs. The
Spiritual Bee was a great companion
of hers.

8. She was exceeding dutiful to
her Parents, very loath to grieve
them in the leaſt; and if ſhe had
any time (which was very rare) be-
offended them, ſhe would weep
bitterly.

9. She abhorred lying, and allow-
ed her ſelf in no known ſin.

10. She was very Conſcientious

n ſpending of time, and hated Idle-
ead neſs, and ſpent her whole time ei-
ile ther in praying, reading, inſtruct-
nes ng at her Needle, at which ſhe
w was very ingenious.
, an 11. When ſhe was at School, ſhe
o g was eminent for her diligence,
cial eachableneſs, meekneſs and mo-
A eſty, ſpeaking very little; but when
n d e did, it was uſually very ſpiri-
noc ual.
d b 12, She continued in this courſe
aſu f Religious Duties for ſome years
T ogether.
ani 13. When ſhe was about four-
ſul ten years old, ſhe brake a Vein in
grie er Lungs (as is ſuppoſed), and oft
had id ſpit blood, yet did a little recover
rare gain, but had ſeveral dangerous
lapſes.
wo 14. At the beginning of *January*
allo ſt ſhe was taken very bad again, in
ntio hich ſickneſs She was in great di-
teſs of Soul. When ſhe was firſt

taken, she said, O Mother, pra
pray, pray, for me, for Satan is
busie that I cannot pray for my se
I see I am undone without a Chri
and a pardon! O I am undone u
to all Eternity!

15. Her Mother knowing ho
serious she had been formerly, d
a little wonder that she should
in such agonies; upon which h
Mother asked her what sin it w
that was so burdensome to her s
rit: O Mother, said she, it is n
any particular Sin of Omission
Commission, that sticks so close
my Conscience, as the Sin of my n
ture; without the blood of Chri
that will damn me.

16. Her Mother asked her wh
she should pray for, for her? s
answered, that I may have a savi
knowledge of Sin and Christ; a
that I may have an assurance
Gods love to my Soul: Her M
ther asked her, why she did spe

so little to the Minister that came to her? She answered, that it was her duty with patience and silence to learn of them: and it was exceeding painful to her to speak to any.

17. One time when she fell into a fit, she cried out, O I am going, I am going: But what shall I do to be saved? Sweet Lord Jesus, I will lye at thy feet, and if I perish, it shall be at the Fountain of thy mercy.

18. She was much afraid of presumption, and dreaded a mistake in the matters of her Soul, and would be often putting up ejaculations to God, to deliver her from deceiving her self. To instance in one: Great and mighty God, give me faith, and true faith, Lord, that I may not be a foolish Virgin, having a Lamp and no Oyl.

19. She would many times be laying hold upon the Promises

and plead them in prayer. Th
in *Matt.* 11. 28, 29. was much w
her Tongue, and no ſmall relief o
her ſpirit. How many times wou
ſhe cry out, Lord, haſt thou n
ſaid, *Come unto me all ye that are w*
ry and heavy laden, and I will g
you reſt.

20. Another time her Fath
bid her be of good cheer, becau
ſhe was going to a better Father
at which ſhe fell into a great pa
on, and ſaid, but how do I kno
that? I am a poor ſinner that wan
aſſurance: O, for aſſurance! It w
ſtill her Note, O, for aſſurance
This was her great, earneſt, a
conſtant requeſt to all that can
to her, to beg aſſurance for he
and, poor heart, ſhe would loo
with ſo much eagerneſs upon them
as if ſhe deſired nothing in th
world ſo much, at that they woul
pity her, and help her with the
prayers; never was poor creatu
mo

more earneſt for any thing than ſhe was for an aſſurance and the Light of Gods Countenance: O the piteous moan that ſhe would make! O the agonies that her Soul was in!

21. Her Mother askt her, if God ſhould ſpare her life, how ſhe would live; truly Mother, ſaid ſhe, we have ſuch baſe hearts that I can't tell; we are apt to promiſe great things, when we are ſick; but when we are recovered, we are as ready to forget our ſelves, and to turn again unto folly; but I hope I ſhould be more careful of my time and my ſoul, than I have been.

22. She was full of natural affection to her Parents, and very careful leaſt he Mother ſhould be tired out with much watching: Her Mother ſaid, how ſhall I bear parting with thee, when I have ſcarce dryed my eyes for thy Bro-

ther? She answered, The God o
love support and comfort you;
is but a little while, and we sha
meet in Glory, I hope. She bein
very weak, could speak but lit
tle; therefore her Mother said
Child, if thou hast any comfort, lif
up thy hand, which she did.

23. The Lords day before tha
in which she died, a Kinsman o
hers came to see her, and asking
of her, whether she knew him
she answered; yes, I know you
and I desire you would learn t
know Christ: you are young, bu
you know not how soon you may
die; and O to die without a Christ
it is a fearful thing: O redeem
Time, O Time, Time, Time, pre
cious Time! Being requested by
him not to spend her self: she said
she would fain do all the good she
could while she lived, and when
she was dead too, if possible; up
on which account, she desired that
a Ser-

a Sermon might be preached at the Funeral concerning the preciouſneſs of Time. O that young ones would now remember their Creatour!

24. Some Miniſters that came to her; did with earneſtneſs, beg that the Lord would pleaſe to give her ſome token for good, that ſhe might go off triumphing; and Bills of the ſame Nature were ſent to ſeveral Churches.

25. After ſhe had long waited for an anſwer of their prayers, ſhe ſaid, *Well, I will venture my ſoul upon Chriſt.*

26. She carried it with wonderful patience, and yet would often pray that the Lord would give her more patience, which the Lord anſwered to aſtoniſhment; for conſidering the pains and agonies that ſhe was in, her patience was next to a wonder; Lord, Lord give me patience, ſaid ſhe, that I may

not dishonour thee.

27. Upon Thursday, after long waiting, great fears, and many Prayers, when all her Friends thought she had been past speaking, to the astonishment of her Friends she broke forth thus with a very audible voice, and chearful Countenance: Lord, thou hast promised that whosoever comes unto thee, thou wilt in no wise cast out; Lord, I come unto the, and surely thou wilt in no wise cast me out. O so sweet! O so Glorious is Jesus! O I have the sweet and Glorious Jesus; he is sweet, he is sweet, he is sweet! O the admirable love of God in sending Christ! O free grace to a poor lost Creature! And thus she ran on repeating many of these things a hundred times over; but her Friends were so astonished to see her in this Divine Rapture, and to hear such Gracious words, and her prayers and desires satisfied,

ed, that they could not write a quarter of what she spoke.

28. When her soul was thus ravished with the love of Christ, and her tongue so highly engaged in the magnifying of God; her Father, Brethern, and Sisters, with other of the Family were called, to whom she spake particularly, as her strength would give leave. She gave her Bible as a Legacy to one of her Brothers, and desired him to use that well for her sake, and, added to him and the rest, O make use of time to get a Christ for your Souls; spend no time in running up and down in playing; O get a Christ for your Souls while you are young, remember now your Creator before you come to a sick bed; put not off this great work till then, for then you will find it a hard work indeed. I know by experience, the Devil will tell you it is time enough; and ye are young, what need

need you to be in such haste? Youn
will have time enough when you
are old. But there stands one at
(meaning her Grand-mother) that say
stayes behind, and I that am but my
young, am going before her. O pa
therefore make your Calling and w
Election sure, while you are in L
health. But I am afraid this will g
be but one nights trouble to your
thoughts; but remember, these are
the words of a dying Sister. O if
you knew how good Christ were!
O if you had but one taste of his
sweetness, you would rather go to
him a thousand times, than stay in
this wicked world. *I would not for ten thousand, and ten thousand worlds part with my interest in Christ.* O how happy am I that am going to everlasting Joyes! I would not go back again for twenty thousand worlds; And will you not strive to get an interest in Christ?

26. After this, looking upon one

of

Youof her Fathers Servants, she said, you
What shall I do? What shall I do
oneat that great day, when Christ shall
thatsay to me, *Come thou blessed of*
but *my Father inherit the Kingdom pre-*
O *pared for thee?* And shall say to the
and wicked *Go thou cursed into the*
in *Lake that burns for ever:* What a
will grief is it to me to think that I shall
our see any of my friends that I knew
are upon Earth turned into that Lake
O if that burns for ever! O that word
re! for ever! Remember that for ever;
his I speak these words to you, but
to they are nothing, except God speak
in to you too. O pray, pray, pray,
or that God would give you grace!
d and then she prayed, O Lord finish
t. thy work upon their Souls. It will
g be my comfort to see you in Glory;
t but it will be your everlasting hap-
pinesse.

30. Her Grandmother told her she spent her self too much; she said I care not for that; if I could

do

do any Soul good. O with what vehemency, did she speak, as if her heart were in every word she spoke.

31. She was full of Divine Sentences, and almost all her discourse from the first to the Last in the time of her sickness, was about her Soul, Christs sweetness, and the Souls of others, in a word, like a continued Sermon.

32. Upon *Friday*, after she had had such lively discoveries of Gods love, she was exceeding desirous to die, and cryed out, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, conduct me to thy Tabernacle; I am a poor creature without thee: but Lord Jesus, my Soul longs to be with thee: O when shall it be? Why not now, dear Jesus? Come Lord Jesus, come quickly; but why do I speak thus? Thy time dear Lord is the best; O give me patience.

33. Upon *Saturday* she spoke very little (being very drowsie) yet

now.

now and then ſhe dropt theſe words, How long ſweet Jeſus, finiſh thy work ſweet Jeſus, come away ſweet dear Lord Jeſus, come quickly; ſweet Lord help, come away, now, now dear Jeſus, come quickly; Good Lord give patience to me to wait thy appointed time; Lord Jeſus help me, help me, help me. Thus at ſeveral times (when out of her ſleep) for ſhe was aſleep the greateſt part of the day.

34. Upon the Lords Day ſhe ſcarce ſpoke any thing, but much deſired that Bills of Thanksgiving might be ſent to thoſe who had formerly been praying for her, that they might help her to praiſe God for that full aſſurance that he had given her of his love; and ſeemed to be much ſwallowed up with the thoughts of Gods free love, to her Soul. She oft commended her ſpirit into the Lords hands, and the laſt words which ſhe was heard to

ſpeak,

ſpeak, were theſe, Lord help Lord Jeſus help; Dear Jeſus, Bleſſ Jeſus---And thus upon the Lor Day, between Nine and Ten of th Clock in the Forenoon, ſhe flep ſweetly in Jeſus, and began a everlaſting Sabbath, *February* 1 1670.

EXAM

EXAMPLE II.

Of a Child that was admirably affected with the things of God, when he was between two and three years old, with a brief account of his Life and Death.

1. A Certain little Child, whose Mother had dedicated him to the Lord in the womb: when he could not speak plain, would be crying after God, and was greatly desirous to be taught good things.

2. He could not endure to be put to Bed without family duty, but would put his Parents upon duty, and would with much devotion kneel down, and with great patience and delight continue till duty was at an end, without the least expression of being weary; and he seemed never so well pleased, as when he was engaged in duty.

3. He

3. He could not be satisfied with Family-duty, but he would be upon his knees by himself in corner or other.

4. He was much delighted hearing the word of God either read or preached.

5. He loved to go to School that he might learn something of God and would observe and take great notice of what he had read, and come home and speak of it with much affection; and he would rejoyce in his book, and say to his Mother, O Mother, I have had a sweet lesson to day, will you please to give me leave to fetch my book that you may hear it.

6. As he grew up, he was more and more affected with the things of another world, so that if we had not received our information from those that is of undoubted fidelity, it would seem incredible.

7. He quickly learned to read

d w the Scripture, and would, with
be great Reverence, Tenderneſs and
in groans read, till tears and ſobs were
ready to hinder him.
ted 8. When he was at ſecret prayer,
eit he would weep bitterly.
9. He was wont often times to
ol t complain of the naughtineſs of his
G heart, and ſeemed to be more grie-
g ved for the Corruption of his Na-
l co ture than for any actual ſin.
uch 10. He had a vaſt Underſtand-
yce ing in the things of God, even next
lot to a wonder, for one of his age.
t le 11. He was much troubled for
ive the wandring of his thoughts in du-
ou n ty, and that he could not keep his
heart alway fixed upon God, and
m the work he was about, and his af-
ing fections conſtantly raiſed.
ad 12. He kept a watch over his
n heart, and obſerved the workings
ity, of his Soul, and would complain
that they were ſo vain and fooliſh,
r and ſo little buſied about ſpiritual
things.

13. Al

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hing fections conſtantly raiſed.

had 12. He kept a watch over his
om heart, and obſerved the workings
elity, of his Soul, and would complain
that they were ſo vain and fooliſh,
to r and ſo little buſied about ſpiritual
things.

13. Al

13. As he grew up, he gre
daily in knowledge and experienc
and his carriage was ſo heaven
and his diſcourſe ſo excellent a
experimental, that it made tho
which heard it, even aſtoniſhed.

14. He was exceeding import
nate with God in duty, and wou
plead with God at a ſtrange ra
and uſe ſuch argumeats in pra
that one would think it were i
poſſible ſhould ever enter into t
heart of a Child; he would beg a
expoſtulate and weep ſo, that ſom
times it could not be kept from t
ears of Neighbours; ſo that one
the next houſe was forced to c
out, the prayers and tears of th
Child in the next houſe will ſink t
to Hell, becauſe by it he did co
demn his neglect of prayer, and
ſlight performance of it.

15. He was very fearful of wi
ed company, and would oft beg

G

God to keep him from it, and that he might never be pleased in them that took delight in displeasing of God: And when he was at any time in the hearing of their wicked words, taking the Lords Name in vain, or swearing, or any filthy word, it would even make him tremble, and ready to go home and weep.

16. He abhorred lying, with his Soul.

17. When he had committed any fault he was easily convinced of it, and would get in some corner and secret place, and with tears beg pardon of God, and strength against such a sin. He had a friend that oft watched him, and listned at his Chamber-door, from whom I received this Narrative.

18. When he had been asked, whether he would commit such a sin again, he would never promise absolutely, because he said his heart

was naught; but he would weep and say he hoped by the grace of God he should not.

19. When he was left at home alone upon the Sabbath days, he would be sure not to spend any part of the day in Idleness and Play, but be busied in praying, Reading into the Bibel, and getting of his Catechism.

20. When other Children were playing, he would many a time and oft be praying.

21. One day a certain person was discoursing with him about the Nature, Offices, and excellency of Christ, and that he alone could satisfie for our sins, and merit everlasting life for us, and about other of the great Mysteries of Redemption: he seemed savingly to understand them, and was greatly delighted with the discourse.

22. One speaking concerning the Resurrection of the body,

id acknowledg it; but that the ame weak body that was buried in he Church-yard, ſhould be raiſed gain, he thought very ſtrange, but with Admiration yielded, that othing was impoſſible to God; nd that very day he was taken ſick into death.

23. A Friend of his asked him whether he were willing to dye when he was firſt taken ſick; he anſwered, no; becauſe he was afraid of his ſtate as to another world: Why Child, ſaid the other, hou didſt pray for a new Heart, or a humble, and a ſincere Heart, nd I have heard thee; didſt thou ot pray with thy heart? I hope did, ſaid he.

24, Not long after, the ſame erſon asked him again, whether e were willing to die? He anſwe- ed, now I am willing, for I ſhall go o Chriſt,

25. One asked him what ſhould become

become of his Sister, if he should
and leave her? He answered,
will of the Lord must be done.

26. He still grew weaker a
weaker, but carried it with a gr
deal of sweetness and patience, w
ing for his change; and at last
chearfully commit his Spirit u
the Lord, and calling upon
Name of the Lord, and sayi
Lord Jesus, Lord Jesus, — —
whose bosome he sweetly slept,
ing as I remember, when he wa
bout five or six years old.

EXAMPLE III.

Of a little Girl that was wrought upon, when she was between four and five years old, with some account of her holy life and triumphant death.

Mary A. When she was between four and five years old, was greatly affected in hearing the word of God, and became very solicitous about her Soul and everlasting condition, weeping bitterly to think what would become of her in another World, asking strange questions concerning God and Christ, and her own soul: that this little *Mary*, before she was full five years old, seemed to find the one thing needfull and to choose the better part, and sat at the feet of Christ many a time and wept with tears.

2. She was wont to be much in

ſecret duty, and many times came from her knees with tears.

3. She would chuſe ſuch times and places for ſecret duty, as might render her leſs obſerved by others, and did endeavour what poſſibly ſhe could to conceal what ſhe was doing, when ſhe was engaged in ſecret duty.

4. She was greatly afraid of hypocriſie, and of doing any thing to be ſeen of men, and to get commendation and praiſe; and when ſhe hath heard one of her Brothers ſaying, that he had been by himſelf in prayer, ſhe rebuked him ſharply, and told him how little ſuch prayers were like to profit him, and that was little to his praiſe to pray like a hypocrite, and to be glad that any ſhould know what he had been doing.

5. Her Mother being full of ſorrow after the death of her Husband, this Child came to her

ne her, and askt her why she wept
o exceedingly? her Mother an-
tiswered, she had cause enough to
miweep, because her Father was dead:
theNo, dear Mother, said the Child,
ofsiyou have no cause to weep so much,
he for God is a good God still to you.
in 6. She was a dear lover of faith-
ful Ministers. One time after she
of had been hearing of Mr. *Whitaker*,
ingshe said I love that man dearly for
nmthe sweet words that he speaks con-
en cerning Christ.
ers 7. Her Book was her delight, and
nselwhat she did read she loved to make
ly, her own, and cared not for passing
praover what she learned without ex-
nd traordinary observations and under-
ay standing; and many times she was
thso strangely affected in reading of
nd the Scriptures, that she would burst
out into tears, and would hardly
ofbe pacified, so greatly was she taken
r with Christs sufferings, the zeal of
her Gods Servant, the danger of a

natural ſtate.

8. She would complain ofte
times of the corruption of her n
ture, of the hardneſs of her hea
that ſhe could repent no more th
rowly, and be no more humb
and grieved for her ſins againſt
good God; and when ſhe did th
complain, it was with abundan
of tears.

9. She was greatly concerned f
the ſouls of others, and grieved
think of the miſerable conditi
that they were in; upon this a
count, when ſhe could handſom
ſhe would be putting in ſome pr
ty ſweet word for Chriſt; but
bove all, ſhe would do what
could to draw the hearts of her b
thern and ſiſters after Chriſt; a
there was no ſmall hopes, that
example and good councel did p
vail with ſome of them when th
were very young to get into c
ners to pray, to ask very graci
que

uestions about the things of God.

10. She was very conscientious in keeping the *Sabbath*, spending the whole time either in reading or praying, or learning her Catechism, or teaching her Brethern and Sisters. One time when she was left at home upon the Lords day, she got some other little children, together with her brothers and sisters, and instead of playing (as other naughty children use to do) she told them, that that was the Lords day, and that they ought to remember that day to keep it holy; and then she told them how it was to be spent in religious exercizes all the day long, except so much as was to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy; then she prayed with them her self, and among others things begged, that the Lord would give grace and wisdom to them little Children, that they might know how to serve him as

one of the little ones in the compoi
ny with her, told her afterwards. en

11. She was a Child of a strangeſ
tenderneſs and Compaſſion to allve
full of Bowels and pity: whom ſhGo
could not help, ſhe would be readin.
to weep over; eſpecially if ſhe ſabo
her Mother at any time troubledna
ſhe would quickly make her ſorrowar
her own, and weep for her and wipe
her.

12. When her Mother had beeea
ſomewhat ſolicitous about apar
worldly thing, ſhe would, if ſhha
could poſſibly, put her off from hget
care one way or other. One timea
ſhe told her, O Mother, grace you
better than that (meaning ſomethiply.
her Mother wanted) I had rath
have grace and the love of Chriſtra
than any thing in the world. wo

13. This Child was often muſimu
and buſied in the thoughts of hnig
everlaſting Work; witneſs tharly
ſtrange queſtion, O what are thding

doin

mpioing which are already in Heads. en? And she seemed to be hugely rangeſirous to be among them that allvere praiſing, loving, delighting in m ſGod, and ſerving of him without reacn. Her language was ſo ſtrange e ſabout ſpiritual matters, that ſhe bledade many excellent Chriſtians to rowand amazed, as judging it ſcarce to wine paralell'd.

14. She took great delight in beeading of the Scripture, and ſome apart of it was more ſweet to her if ſthan her appointed food; ſhe would n hget ſeveral choice Scriptures by timeart, and diſcourſe of them ſaice rourly, and apply them ſutathibly.

ath 15. She was not altogether a hriranger to other good Books, but would be reading of them with uſimuch affection; and where ſhe of hnight, ſhe noted the Books particuthrly, obſerving what in the reathding did moſt warm her heart, and oin

she was ready upon occasion to improve it.

16. One time a woman coming into the house in a great passion spoke of her condition, as if none were like hers, and it would never be otherwise; the Child said it was a strange thing to say when its night it will never be day again.

16. At another time a near Relation of hers being in some streights made some complaint, to which she said, I have heard Mr. *Carr* say, A man may go to Heaven without a Penny in his Purse; but not without Grace in his heart.

17. She had an extraordinary love to the people of God; and when she saw any that she thought fear the Lord, her heart would e'n leap for joy.

18. She loved to be much by herself, and would be greatly grieved if she were at any time deprived of a conveniency for secret duty;

cou

could not live without constant addreſs to God in ſecret; and was not a little pleaſed when ſhe could go into a corner to pray and weep.

20. She was much in praiſing God, and ſeldom or never complained of any thing but ſin.

21. She continued in this courſe of praying and praiſing of God; and great dutifulneſs and ſweetneſs to her *Parents*, and thoſe that taught her any thing; yea, ſhe did greatly encourage her Mother while ſhe was a Widow, and deſired that the abſence of a Husband might in ſome meaſure be made up by the dutifulneſs and holineſs of a Child. She ſtudied all the ways that could be to make her Mothers life ſweet.

22. When ſhe was between eleven and twelve years old, ſhe ſickned, in which ſhe carried it with admirable patience and ſweetneſs; and did what ſhe could with Scrip-

ture arguments to support and en
courage her Relations to part wi
her that was going to Glory, a
to prepare themselves to meet her
a blessed Eternity.

23. She was not many days sic
before she was marked; which s
first saw her self, and was great
rejoyced to think that she w
marked out for the Lord, and w
now going apace to Christ. S
called to her Friends, and said,
am marked, but be not trouble
for I know I am marked for one
the Lords own. One asked h
how she knew that? She answ
red, the Lord hath told me tha
am one of his dear Children. A
thus she spake with a holy con
dence in the Lords love to her so
and was not in the least daunt
when she spake of her death; h
seemed greatly delighted in the
prehension of her nearness to
Fathers house. And it was
lo

long before she was filled with joy unspeakable in believing.

24. When she just lay a dying, her Mother came to her and told her she was sorry that she had reproved and corrected so good a child so oft. O Mother, said she, speak not thus, I bless God, now I am dying, for your reproofs and corrections too; for it may be, I might have gone to Hell, if it had not been for your reproofs and corrections.

25. Some of her Neighbours coming to visit her, asked her if she would leave them? She answered them, if you serve the Lord, you shall come after me to Glory.

26. A little before she died, she had a great conflict with Satan, and cried out, I am none of his; her Mother seeing her in trouble, asked her what was the matter? She answered, Satan did trouble me, but now I thank God all is well, I know

know I am none of his, but Christ

27. After this, she had a great sense of Gods love, and a glorious sight, as if she had seen the very Heavens open, and the Angels come to receive her; by which her heart was filled with joy, and her tongue with praise.

28. Being desired by the standers by to give them a particular account of what she saw: she answered, you shall know hereafter; and so in an extasie of joy and holy triumph, she went to Heaven, when she was about Twelve years old. *Hallelujah.*

A Fourth Example of a Child that began to look towards Heaven when she was about four years old, with some observable passages in her Life and at her Death.

1. A Certain little Child, when she was about four years old, had a conscientious sense of her duty towards her Parents, because the Commandement saith, *Honour thy Father and thy Mother.* And though she had little advantage of education, she carried it with the greatest reverence to her Parents imaginable, so that she was no small credit as well as comfort, to them.

2. It was no usual thing for her to weep if she saw her Parents troubled, though her self had not been the occasion of it.

3. When she came from School, she would with grief and abhor-

rency

rency say, that other Children had sinned against God by speaking grievous words, which were so bad that she durst not speak them again.

4. She would be often times admiring of Gods mercy for so much goodness to her rather than to others; that she saw some begging, others blind, some crooked, and that she wanted nothing that was good for her.

5. She was many a time and often in one hole or another in tears upon her knees.

6. This poor little thing would be ready to councel other little children how they ought to serve God, and putting them upon getting by themselves to pray; and hath been known when her friends have been abroad, to have been teaching Children to pray, especially upon the Lords Day.

7. She very seriously begged the Prayers of others, that they would remem-

remember her, that the Lord would give her Grace.

8. When this Child ſaw ſome that were laughing, who ſhe judged to be very wicked; She told them, that ſhe feared that they had little reaſon to be merry. They asked whether one might not laugh? She anſwered, no indeed till you have grace, they who are wicked have more need to cry than to laugh.

9. She would ſay, that it was the duty of Parents, Maſters and Miſtreſſes, to reprove (thoſe under their charge) for ſin, elſe God will meet with them.

10. She would be very attentive when ſhe read the Scriptures, and be much affected with them.

11. She would by no means be perſwaded to prophane the Lords Day, but would ſpend it in ſome good Duties.

12. When ſhe went to School,

it

it was willingly and joyfully, an
ſhe was very teachable and exem
plary to other Children.

13. When ſhe was taken ſic
one asked her whether ſhe we
willing to die? She anſwered, Ye
if God would pardon her ſins. B
ing asked how her ſins ſhould
pardoned? She anſwered, throug
the blood of Chriſt.

14. She ſaid, ſhe did believe
Chriſt, and deſired, and longed
be with him, and did with a grea
deal of chearfulneſs give up h
ſoul.

¶There were very many obſervab
paſſages in the Life and Death
this Child, but the hurry and gri
that her friends were in, buryi
them.

The Fifth Example of the pious Life and joyful Death of a Child which dyed when he was about twelve years old. 1632.

1. *Charles Bridgman* had no ſooner learned to ſpeak, but he betook himſelf to prayer.

2. He was very prone to learn the things of God.

3. He would be ſometimes teaching them their duty that waited upon him.

4. He learned by heart many good things before he was well fit to go to School: and when he was ſet to School, he carried it ſo, that all that obſerved him either did or might admire him. O the ſweet nature, the good diſpoſition, the ſincere Religion which was in this Child!

5. When he was at School, what was it that he deſired to learn but

but Christ and him crueified.

6. So religious and savoury were his words, his actions so upright his devotion so hearty, his fear of God so great, that many were ready to say, as they did of *John*, *What manner of Child shall this be?*

7. He would be much in reading the holy Scriptures.

8. He was desirous of more spiritual knowledge, and would be asking very serious and admirable questions.

9. He would not stir out of doors before he had poured out his Soul to the Lord.

10 When he eat any thing, he would be sure to lift up his heart unto the Lord for a blessing upon it and when he had moderately refreshed himself by eating, he would not forget to acknowledge God's goodness in feeding of him.

11. He would not lye down in his bed till he had been upon his knees

knees; and when ſometimes he had forgotten his duty, he would quickly get out of his bed, and kneeling down upon his bare knees, recovered with no Garment but his Linings, ask God forgiveneſs for that ſin.

12. He would rebuke his Brethern if they were at any time too haſty at their meals, and did eat without asking a bleſſing; his check was uſually this; dare you do thus? God be merciful to us, this bit of bread might choak us.

13. His ſentences were wiſe and weighty, and well might become ſome ancient Chriſtian.

14. His ſickneſs was a lingring diſeaſe, againſt which, to comfort him, one tells him of poſſeſſions that muſt fall to his portion; and what are they, ſaid he? I had rather have the Kingdom of Heaven than a thouſand ſuch inheritances.

15. When he was ſick he ſeem-

ed

ed much taken up with Heaven an
asked very ſerious queſtions abo
the nature of his ſoul.

16. After he was pretty well ſ
tisfied about that, he enquired ho
his ſoul might be ſaved; the anſwe
being made, by the applying
Chriſts merits by faith; he wa
pleaſed with the anſwer, and wa
ready to give any one that ſhou
deſire it, an account of his hope.

17. Being asked whether he h
rather live or dye he anſwered,
deſire to dye, that I may go to m
Saviour.

18. His pains encreaſing up
him, one asked him whether
would rather ſtill endure th
pains, or forſake Chriſt? A
ſaid he, I know not what to ſa
being but a Child, for theſe pai
may ſtagger a ſtrong man; But
will ſtrive to endure the beſt tha
can. Upon this he called to mi
that Martyr *Thomas Bilney*; w
be

being in prison, the night before his burning put his finger into the candle, to know how he could endure the fire. O (said the Child) had I lived then, I would have run through the fire to have gone to Christ.

19. His sickness lasted long, and at least three days before his death he prophesied his departure, and not onely that he must dye, but the very day. On the Lords day, said he, look to me; neither was this a word of course, which you may guess by his often repetition, every day asking, till the day came indeed, what, is Sunday come? At last the lookt for day came on; and no sooner had the Sun beautified that morning with its light but he falls into a trance; his eyes were fixed, his face chearful, his lips smiling, his hands and face clasped in a bow, as if he would have received some blessed Angel that were at hand

hand to receive his ſoul: but h
comes to himſelf, and tells the
how he ſaw the ſweeteſt body th
ever eyes beheld, who bid him b
of good chear, for he muſt preſentl
go with him.

21. One that ſtood near him,
now ſuſpecting the time of his di
ſolution nigh, bid him ſay, Lor
into thy hands I commend my ſp
rit, which is thy due; for why
thou haſt redeemed it, O Lord m
God moſt true.

22. The laſt words which h
ſpake, were exactly theſe; Pra
pray, pray, nay yet pray, and th
more Prayers, the better all pro
pers; God is the beſt Phyſitian
into his hands I commend m
ſpirit, O Lord Jeſus receive m
ſoul: Now cloſe mine eyes: Fo
give me Father, Mother, Brothe
Siſter, all the World. Now I a
well, my pain is almoſt gone, m
joy is at hand, Lord have mer

one me. O Lord receive my Soul unto thee. And thus he yielded his Spirit up unto the Lord, when he was about twelve years old.

This Narrative was taken out of Mr. *Ambroſe his life's Leaſe.*

The

The sixth Example of a poor Ch that was awakened when she w about five years old.

1. A Certain very poor Ch that had a very bad F ther, but it was to be hoped a ve good Mother, was by the Pro dence of God brought to the sig of a godly friend of mine, who up the first sight of the Child, had great pity for him, and took affection to him, and had a mind bring him up for Christ.

2. At the first he did with gr sweetness and kindness allure Child, by which means it was long before he got a deep inte in the heart of the Child, and began to obey him with more rea ness than Children usually do th Parents.

3. By this a Door was open for a farther work, and he had gre

reater advantage to inſtill ſpiritual rinciples into the ſoul of the Child, hich he was not wanting in, as the ord gave opportunity, and the hild was capable of.

4. It was not long before the ord was pleaſed to ſtrike in with he ſpiritual Exhortations of this ood man, of that the Child was rought to a liking of the things of od.

5. He quickly learnt a great part f the aſſemblies Catechiſm by art, and that before he could read is Primmer within Book; and he ok a great delight in learning his atechiſm.

6. He was not only able to give very good account of his Cateiſm, but he would anſwer ſuch eſtions as are not in the Cateiſm, with greater underſtanding an could be expected of one of age.

7. He took great delight in diſ-

courſing about the things of Go
and when my Friend had been
ther praying or reading, expoun
ing or repeating of Sermons,
ſeemed very attentive, and rea
to receive the truths of God, a
would with incredible gravity,
ligence, and affection, wait till
ties were ended, to the no ſmall
and admiration of them which
ſerved him.

8. He would ask very excell
queſtions, and diſcourſe about
condition of his ſoul and heave
things, and ſeemed mightily co
cerned what ſhould become of
ſoul when he ſhould dye, ſo t
his diſcourſe made ſome Chriſti
even to ſtand aſtoniſhed.

9. He was greatly taken w
the great kindneſs of Chriſt in
ing for ſinners, and would be in te
at the mention of them; and ſeem
at a ſtrange rate to be affected w
the unſpeakable love of Chriſt.

10. W

10. When no body hath been ſpeaking to him, he would burſt out into tears; and being asked the reaſon, he would ſay, that the very thoughts of Chriſts love to ſinners in ſuffering for them, made him that he could not but cry.

11. Before he was ſix years old, he made conſcience of a ſecret duty; and when he prayed, it was with ſuch extraordinary meltings, that his eyes have looked red and ſore with weeping by himſelf for his ſin.

12. He would be putting of Chriſtians upon ſpiritual diſcourſe when he ſaw them, and ſeemed little ſatisfied; unleſs they were talking of good things.

13. Its evident, That this poor Childs thoughts were very much buſied about the things of another world, for he would oftentimes be ſpeaking to his Bed fellow at mid-night, about the matter of his

ſoul, and when he could not ſleep, he would take heavenly conference to be ſweeter than his appointed reſt. This was his uſual cuſtome, and thus he would provoke and put forward an experienced Chriſtian to ſpend waking hours in talk of God and the everlaſting reſt.

14. Not long after this, his good Mother died, which went very near his heart, for he greatly honoured his Mother.

15. After the death of his Mother, he would often repeat ſome of the promiſes that are made unto Fatherleſs Children, eſpecially that in Exod. 22. 22. *Ye ſhall not afflict any Widow or the Fatherleſs Child if thou afflict them in any wiſe, and they cry at all unto me, I will ſurely hear their cry.*——— Theſe words he would often repeat with tears and ſay, Iam Fatherleſs and Motherleſs upon Earth, yet if any wrong me, I have a Father in Heaven who will

will take my part; to him I commit my self, and in him is all my trust.

16. Thus he continued in a course of holy duties, living in the fear of God, and shewed wonderfull grace for a Child, and died sweetly in the Faith of Jesus.

My friend is a judicious Christian of many years experience, who was no ways related to him, but a constant eye and ear-witness of his godly life, and honourable and chearful death, from whom I received this information.

EXAMPLE VII:

Of a notorious wicked Child who was taken up from begging, and admirably converted; with an account of his holy Life and joyful Death when he was nine years old.

1. A Very poor Child of the Pariſh of *Newington-Butts* came begging to the door of a dear Chriſtian friend of mine, in a very lamentable caſe, ſo filthy and naſty, that he would even have turned ones ſtomach to have looked on him: But it pleaſed God to raiſe in the heart of my friend, a great pity and tenderneſs towards this poor child, ſo that in Charity he took him out of the ſtreets, whoſe Parents were unknown, who had nothing at all in him to commend him to any ones Charity, but his miſery. My friend eying the glory

glory of God, and the good of the immortal ſoul of this wretched Creature, diſcharged the Pariſh of the Child, and took him as his own, deſigning to bring him up for the Lord Chriſt. A noble piece of Charity! And that which did make the kindneſs far the greater was, that there ſeemed to be very little hopes of doing any good upon this Child, for he was a very Monſter of wickedneſs, and a thouſand times more miſerable and vile by his ſin, than by his poverty. He was running to Hell as ſoon as he could go, and was old in naughtineſs when he was young in years; and one ſhall ſcarce hear of one ſo like the Devil in his fancy, as this poor Child was. What ſin was there (that his age was capable of) that he did not commit; What by the corruption of his Nature, and the abominable example of little beggar boyes, he was ar-

rived to a ſtrange pitch of impiet
He would call filthy Names, ta
Gods Name in vain, curſe a
ſwear, and do almoſt all kind
miſchief; and as to any thing
God, worſe than an Heathen.

2. But his ſin and miſery w
but a ſtronger motive to that gra
ous man to pity him, and to do
that poſſibly he could to pluck th
fire-brand out of the fire; and
was not long before the Lord w
pleaſed to let him underſtand th
he had a deſign of everlaſting kind
neſs upon the Soul of this poo
child: for no ſooner had this goo
man taken this creature into h
houſe, but he prays for him, an
labours with all his might to con
vince him of his miſerable conditi
on by Nature, and to teach him
ſomething of God, the worth o
his own Soul, and that Eternity o
Glory or miſery that he was born
to; and bleſſed be Free-grace, it
was

was not long before the Lord was pleased to let him understand, that it was himself which put it into his heart to take in this Child, that he might bring him up for Christ. The Lord soon struck in with his godly instructions, so that an amazing change was seen in the Child, in a few weeks space he was soon convinced of the evil of his ways; no more news now of his calling of Names, Swearing, or Cursing; no more taking of the Lords Name in vain; now he is civil, and respective, and such a strange alteration was wrought in the child, that all the Parish that rung of his villany, before, was now ready to talk of his reformation; his company, his talk, his imployment is now changed, and he is like another creature; so that the glory of Gods Free-grace began already to shine in him.

3. And this change was not on-

ly an eternal one, and to be discern-
ed abroad, but he would get by
himself, and weep and mourn bit-
terly for his horrible wicked life, as
might easily be perceived by them
that lived in the house with him.

4. It was the great care of his
godly Master to strike in with those
convictions which the Lord had
made, and to improve them all he
could; and he was not a little glad
to see that his labour was not in
vain in the Lord; he still experien-
ces that the *Lord* doth carry on
his own work mightily upon the
heart of the Child, he is still more
and more broken under a sense of
his undone state by nature; he is oft
in tears and bemoaning his lost and
miserable condition. When his
Master did speak of the things of
God, he listened earnestly, and took
in with much greediness and affecti-
on what he was taught. Seldom
was there any discourse about Soul-

mat-

matters in his hearing, but he heard it as if it were for his life, and would weep greatly.

5. He would after his Master had been speaking to him or others of the things of God, go to him and question with him about them, and beg of him to instruct and teach him further, and to tell him those things again, that he might remember and understand them better.

6. Thus he continued seeking after the knowledg of God and Christ, and practising holy duties, till the sickness came into the house, with which the child was smitten; at his first sickning, the poor child was greatly amazed and afraid, and though his pains were great, and the distemper very tedious, yet the sense of his sin, and the thoughts of the miserable condition that he feared his soul was still in, made his trouble ten times greater; he was in grievous agonies of spirit, and

his

his former sins stared him in the face, and made him tremble; the poison of Gods arrows did even drink up his spirits; the sense of sin and wrath was so great, that he could not tell what in the world to do; the weight of Gods displeasure, and the thoughts of lying under it to all eternity, did even break him to pieces, and he did cry out very bitterly, what should he do? he was a miserable sinner, and he feared that he should go to Hell; his sins had been so great and so many that there was no hopes, for him. He was not by far so much concerned for his life, as for his Soul, what would become of that for ever. Now the plague upon his body seemed nothing to that which was in his soul.

7. But in this great distress the Lord was pleased to send one to take care for his Soul, who urged to him the great and precious promises which were made to one in his

his condition, telling him that there was enough in Christ for the chiefest of sinners, and that he came to seek and save such a lost creature as he was. But this poor Child found it a very difficult thing for him to believe that there was any mercy for such a dreadful sinner as he had been.

8. He was made to cry out of himself, not only for his swearing and lying, and other outwardly notorious sins; but he was in great horrour for the sin of his Nature, for the vileness of his heart, and original corruption; under it he was in so great anguish, that the trouble of his spirit made him in a great measure to forget the pains of his body.

9. He did very particularly confess and bewail his sins with tears; and some sins so secret that none in the world could charge him with.

10. He would condemn himself

for

or sin; as deserving to have no mercy; though that there was not a greater sinner in all *London* than himself, and he abhorred himself as the vilest creature he knew.

11. He did not only pray much with strong cries and tears himself, but he begged the prayers of Christians for him.

12. He would ask Christians, whether they thought there were any hopes for him, and would beg of them to deal plainly with him, for he was greatly afriad of being deceived.

13. Being informed how willing and ready the Lord Christ was to accept of poor sinners upon their repentance and turning, and being counselled to venture himself upon Christ for mercy and salvation, he said he would fain cast himself upon Christ, but he could not but wonder how Christ should be willing to dye for such a vile wretch as he was;

and

and he found it one of the hardeſt things in the world to believe.

14. But at laſt it pleaſed the Lord to give him ſome ſmall hopes that there might be mercy for him, for he had been the chiefeſt of ſinners; and he was made to lay a little hold upon ſuch promiſes, as that, *Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you reſt.* But O how did this poor boy admire and bleſs God for the leaſt hopes! How highly did he advance free and rich grace that ſhould pity and pardon him! and at laſt he was full of praiſe, and admiring of God, ſo that (to ſpeak in the words of a precious man, that was an eye and ear witneſs) to the praiſe and glory of God be it ſpoken, the houſe at that day, for all the ſickneſs in it, was a little lower Heaven, ſo full of joy and praiſe.

15. The Child grew exceedingly,

ly in knowledge, experiences, patience, humility, and self abhorrency, and he thought he could never speak bad enough of himself, the Name that he would call himself by, was a Toad.

16. And though he prayed before, yet now the Lord poured out upon him the Spirit of prayer in an extraordinary manner, for one of his age; so that now he prayed more frequently, more earnestly more spiritually than ever. O how eagerly would he beg to be washed in the Blood of Jesus; and that the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, that was over Heaven and Earth, and Sea, would pardon and forgive him all his sins, and receive his Soul into his Kingdom! and what he spoke, it was with so much life and fervour of Spirit, as that it filled the hearers with astonishment and joy.

17. He

17 He had no ſmall ſenſe of the uſe and excellency of Chriſt, and ſuch longings and breathings of his Soul after him, that when mention hath been made of Chriſt, he hath been ready almoſt to leap out of his bed for joy.

18. When he was told that if he ſhould recover, he muſt not live as he liſt; but he muſt give up himſelf to Chriſt, and to be his Child and Servant, to bear his Yoke, and be obedient unto his laws, and live a holy life, and take his Croſs, and ſuffer mocking and reproach, it may be perſecution for his Name ſake. Now Child (ſaid one to him) are you willing to have Chriſt upon ſuch terms? He ſignified his willingneſs by the earneſtneſs of his looks and words, and the caſting up of his eyes to Heaven, ſaying, yes, with all my Soul, the Lord helping me, I will do this.

19. Yet he had many doubts and

and fears, and was ever and anon harping upon that, that though he were willing, yet Christ he feared was not willing to accept him, because of the greatness of his sin, yet his hopes were greater than his fears.

20. The *Wednesday* before he died, the Child lay as it were in a trance for about half an hour, in which time he thought he saw a Vision of Angels: When he was out of his Trance, he was in a little pett, and asked his Nurse, why she did not let him go; go, whither child, said she? why along with those brave Gentlemen (said he): but they told me they would come and fetch me away for all you, upon *Friday* next. And he doubled his words many times, upon *Friday* next, those brave Gentlemen will come for me; and upon that day the Child dyed joyfully.

21. He

21. He was very thankful to his Master, and very sensible of his great kindness in taking him up out of the streets when he was a begging, and he admired at the goodness of God; which put it into the mind of a stranger to look upon, and to take, such fatherly care of such a pitiful sorry creature as he was. O my dear Mother (said he) and child of God, I hope to see you in Heaven, for I am sure you will go thither. O blessed, blessed be God that made you to take pity upon me, for I might have dyed, and have gone to the Devil, and have been damned for ever, if it had not been for you.

22. The Thursday before he dyed he asked a very godly friend of mine, what he thought of his condition, and whither his soul was now going? for he said he could not still but fear least he should deceive himself with false hopes,

at

at which my friend ſpoke to him thus, Child, for all that I have endeavoured to hold forth the grace of God in Chriſt to thy Soul and given you a warrant from the Word of God, that Chriſt is freely offered to you, as to an finner in the world; if thou art but willing to accept of him, thou mayeſt have Chriſt and all that thou doſt want, with him; and yet thou giveſt way to theſe thy doubtings and fears, as though I told thee nothing but lyes. Thou ſayeſt thou feareſt that Chriſt will not accept of thee; I fear thou art not heartily willing to accept of him. The Child anſwered, indeed I am: Why then Child, thou art unfeignedly willing to have Chriſt, I tell thee he is a thouſand times more willing to have thee, and waſh thee, and ſave thee, than thou art to deſire it. And now at this time

Chri

Christ offers himself freely to thee again; therefore receive him humbly by Faith into thy heart, and bid him welcome, for he deserveth it: Upon which words the Lord discovered his love to the Child, and he gave a kind of a leap in his bed, and snapt his fingers and thumb together with abundance of joy, as much as to say, Well, yea all is well, the match is made, Christ is willing, and I am willing too; and now Christ is mine, and I am his for ever. And from that time forward, in full joy and assurance of Gods love, he continued earnestly praising God, with desiring to die, and be with Christ. And on Friday morning he sweetly went to rest, using that very expression, Into thy hands Lord I commit my spirit. He died punctually at that time which he had spoke of, and in which he expected

those

those Angels to come to him; he wa
not much above nine years old whe
he dyed.

This Narrative I had from a ju
dicious holy man un-related to him
who was an eye and ear-witnes
to all these things.

FINIS.

A TOKEN FOR CHILDREN.

The SECOND PART.

BEING

A farther Account of the Converſion, Holy and exemplary Lives, and Joyful Deaths of ſeveral other young Children, not publiſhed in *The Firſt Part.*

By *James Janeway*, Miniſter of the Goſpel.

Pſal. 8. 2.

Out of the Mouth of Babes *and* Sucklings *haſt thou ordained ſtrength.*

LONDON,
Printed for *D. Newman*, at the *Kings Arms* at the Corner of *Grocers Ally* in the *Poultry*, 1678.

A PREFACE TO THE READER.

Christian Reader,

IN the former part of my Tokens for Children, I did in part promise, that if that piece met with kind entertainment, it might be followed with a second of the same nature. If it did not seem a little to savour of vanity, I might tell the World what encouragement I have met with in this Work; but this I will only say, that I have met with so much as hath perswaded me to give this little Book leave to go abroad into the World. I am not also ignorant, what Discou-

ragement I may meet with from some:
but as long as I am sure I shall not
meet with this, that it's improbable,
if not impossible, that it should save
a Soul; I think the rest may easily be
answered, or warrantably slighted.
But because I am perswaded by some
that one Example in the former
(viz that of a Child that began to be
serious between two and three years old)
was scarce credible and they did fear
might somewhat prejudice the author-
rity of the rest, I shall say somethin
to answer that. They which make
this Objection are either good or bad:
if bad, I expect never to satisfie them
except I should tell them of a Ro-
mance or a Play, or somewhat that
might suit a carnal mind; it is like
holiness in older persons, is a matter
of contempt and scorn to them, much
more in such as these I mention. The
truth of it is, it is no wonder at all to
me, that the Subjects of Satan should
not be very well pleased with that
whose design is to undermine the inte-
rest

rest of their great Master: nothing will satisfie some, except Christ and holiness may be degraded and vilified. But hold sinner hold, never hope it, Heaven shall never be turned into Hell for thy sake; and as for all thy Atheistical Objections, Scoffs and Jeers, they shall e're long be fully answered; and the Hosannah's and Hallelujah's of these Babes shall condemn thy Oaths, Blasphemies and Jeers, and then thou wilt be silenced, and except converting Grace turn thy heart quickly, thou wilt for ever rue thy madness and folly, when it is too late to remedy it.

But if the Persons that make this Objection be godly I question not but that I may give them reasonable satisfaction

First, Consider who it is that I had that example from. It was one Mrs. Jeofries *in* Long-Lane *in* Mary Magdalen Bermondsey *Parish, in the County of* Surry, *a woman of that fame in the Church of Christ, for her*

her exemplary Piety, Wisdom, Experience, and singular watchfulness over every punctilio that she speaks; that I question not but that her name is precious to most of the Ministers of London, at least in the Burrough: and as a reverend Divine said, Such a Mother in Israel, her single Testimony about London, is of as much authority almost as any one single Ministers: And having since discoursed this matter with her, she calls God to witness, that she hath spoken nothing but the Truth; only in this she failed, in that she spake not by far so much as she might have done concerning that sweet Babe. I might add, that I have since that, seen a godly gentleman out of the Countrey that did profess to me, that he had seen as much as that in a little one of the same age who since that time I hear, went sweetly to Heaven. Doth not the Reverend Mr. Clark, in his Works, quote a Child of two years old that looked towards Heaven?

Doth

Doth not credible History acquaint us with a Martyr at seven years old, that was whipped almost to death, and never shed one tear nor complained, and at last had his Head struck off? I do not speak of these as common matters, but record them amongst those stupendious Acts of him that can as easily work Wonders as not. What is too hard for the Almighty? Hath God said he will work no more wonders? I think most of Gods works in the business of Conversion call for Admiration: And I believe that Silence or rather Praise would better become Saints, than questioning the truth of such things; especially where an apparent Injury is thereby done to the Interest of Christ the Honour of Gods Grace, and the Reputation of so eminent a Saint. I judge this sufficient to satisfie most, as for others I trouble not my self; if I may but promote the interest of Christ, and the Good of Souls, and give up my Account with joy, it's enough. That

the Lord would bless my endeavours to these ends, I beg the prayers of all Saints, and yours also sweet Children that fear the Lord; and that Parents and Masters would assist me with their warm application of these things, and that Children may be their Crown and their Joy, is the Prayer of one that desires to love Christ and little children dearly.

James Janeway.

A TOKEN FOR CHILDREN.

The Second Part.

Example VIII.

Of a Child that was very serious at four years old, with an account of his comfortable Death when he was twelve years and three weeks old.

1. *John Sudlow* was born of religious Parents in the County of *Middlesex*, whose great care was to instill spiritual Principles into him as soon as he was capable of understanding of them, whose Endeavours the Lord was pleased to crown with the desired success; so that (to use the expression of a holy man con-

concerning him) scarce more could be expected or desired from so little a one.

2. When he was scarce able to speak plain, he seemed to have a very great awe and reverence of God upon his spirit, and a strange sense of the things of another world, as might easily be perceived by those serious and admirable questions which he would be oft asking of those Christians that he thought he might be bold with.

3. The first thing that did most affect him, and made him endeavour to escape from the wrath to come, and to enquire what he should do to be saved, was the death of a little Brother; when he saw him without breath, and not able to speak or stir, and then carried out of doors, and put into a pit-hole, he was greatly concerned, and asked notable questions about him, but that which was most affecting of himself and others, was

whether he must die too, which being answered, it made such a deep impression upon him, that from that time forward he was exceeding serious, and this was when he was about four years old.

4. Now he is desirous to know what he might do that he might live in another world, and what he must avoid, that he might not die for ever; and being instructed by his godly Parents, he soon labours to avoid whatsoever might displease God; now tell him that any thing was sinful, and that God would not have him do it, and he is easily kept from it, and even at this time of day the apprehensions of God, and Death, and Eternity laid such a restraint upon him, that he would not for a world have told a Lie.

5. He quickly learned to read exactly, and took such Pleasure in reading of the Scriptures and his Catechism, and other good Books, that it is scarce to be parallel'd; he would

would naturally run to his Book without bidding, when he came home from School; and while other children of his age and acquaintance were playing, he reckon'd it his Recreation to be doing that which was good.

6. When he was in Coats, he would be ſtill asking his maid ſerious queſtions, and praying her to teach him his Catechiſm or Scriptures, or ſome good thing; common Diſcourſe he took no delight in, but did moſt eagerly deſire to be ſucking in of the knowledge of the things of God, Chriſt, his Soul, and another world.

7. He was hugely taken with the reading of the Book of Martyrs, and would be ready to leave his Dinner to go to his Book.

8. He was exceeding careful of redeeming and improving of time; ſcarce a moment of it, but he would give an excellent account of the expence of it; ſo that this Child

might have taught elder perſons, and will queſtionleſs condemn their idle and unaccountable waſting of thoſe precious hours in which they ſhould, as this ſweet Child, have been laying in proviſion for Eternity.

9. He could not endure to read any thing over ſlightly, but whatſoever he read he dwelt upon it, laboured to underſtand it throughly, and remember it; and what he could not underſtand he would oft ask his Father or Mother the meaning of.

10. When any Chriſtian friends have been diſcourſing with his Father, if they began to talk any thing about Religion, to be ſure they ſhould have his company, and of his own accord he would leave all to hear any thing of Chriſt, and creep as cloſe to them as he could, and liſten as affectionately though it were for an hour or two: He was ſcarce ever known to expreſs the

the leaſt token of wearineſs while he was hearing any thing that was good; and ſometimes when neighbours children would come and call him out, and entice him and beg of him to go with them, he could by no means be perſwaded, though he might have had the leave of his Parents, if he had any hopes that any good body would come in to his fathers houſe.

11. He was very modeſt whileſt any ſtranger was preſent, and was loth to ask them any queſtions; but as ſoon as they were gone, he would let his Father know that there was little ſaid or done but he obſerved it, and would reflect upon what was paſt in their diſcourſe, and deſire ſatisfaction in what he could not underſtand at preſent.

12. He was a Boy of almoſt prodigious parts for his age, as will appear by his ſolid and rational queſtions; I ſhall mention but two of many.

13. The first was this, when he was reading by himself in *Draiton's* Poems about *Noah's* Flood and the Ark, he askt who built the Ark? it being answered that it was likely that *Noah* hired men to help him to build it: And would they (said he) build an Ark to save another, and not go into it themselves?

14. Another question he put was this; Whether had the greater glory Saints or Angels? It being answered, that Angels were the most excellent of Creatures, and it's to be thought their nature is made capable of greater glory than mans. He said he was of another mind; and his reason was, because Angels were Servants, and Saints are Children; and that Christ never took upon him the nature of Angels, but he took upon him the nature of Saints, and by his being man he hath advanced humane nature above the nature of Angels.

15. By this you may perceive the greatness of his parts, and the bent of

of his thoughts, and thus he continued for ſeveral years together, labouring to get more and more ſpiritual knowledge, and to prepare for an endleſs life.

16. He was a Child of an excellent ſweet temper, wonderful dutiful to his Parents, ready and joyful to do what he was bid, and by no means would do any thing to diſpleaſe them; and if they were at any time ſeemingly angry, he would not ſtir from them till they were thorowly reconciled to him.

17. He was not only good himſelf, but would do what he could to make others ſo too, eſpecially thoſe that were neareſt to him; he was very watchful over his Brethren and Siſters, and would not ſuffer them to uſe any unhandſom words, or to do any unhandſom action, but he would be putting them upon that which was Good; and when he did at any time rebuke them, it was not Childiſhly and ſlightly, but with great

great gravity and ſeriouſneſs, as one that was not a little concerned for Gods honour, and the eternal welfare of their Souls.

18. He would go to his Father and Mother with great tenderneſs and compaſſion (being far from telling of tales) and beg of them to take more care of the Souls of his Brethren and Siſters, and to take heed leſt they ſhould go on in a ſinful Chriſtleſs ſtate, and prove their ſorrow and ſhame, and go to Hell when they die, and be ruined for ever.

19. He was exceedingly affected with hearing of the Word of God preached, and could not be ſatisfied except he could carry home much of the ſubſtance of what he heard; to this end he quickly got to learn Short hand, and would give a very pretty account of any Sermon that he heard.

20. He was much engaged in ſecret Duty, and in reading the Scri-

Scriptures; to be sure morning and evening he would be by himself, and was, no question, wrestling with God.

21. He would get choice Scriptures by heart, and was very perfect at his Catechism.

22. The Providences of God were not passed by without considerable observation by him.

23. In the time of the Plague he was exceedingly concerned about his Soul and Everlasting State; very much by himself upon his knees. This Prayer was found written in Short-hand after his Death.

O Lord God and merciful Father, take pitie upon me a miserable Sinner, and strengthen me, O Lord, in thy faith, and make me one of thy glorious Saints in Heaven. O Lord keep me from this poisonous Infection, however not my will but thy will be done, O Lord, on earth as it is in heaven: but O Lord, if thou hast appointed

pointed me to die by it, O Lord fit me for death, and give me a good heart to bear up under my afflictions: O Lord God and merciful Father, take pity on me thy child, teach me O Lord thy Word, make me ſtrong in faith. O Lord I have ſinned againſt thee, Lord pardon my ſins; I had been in hell long ago if it had not been for thy mercy. O Lord, I pray thee to keep my Parents in thy truth, and ſave them from this Infection, if it be thy will, that they may live to bring me up in the truth: O Lord I pray thee ſtay this Infection that rageth in this City, and pardon their ſins, and try them once more, and ſee if they will turn unto thee. Save me, O Lord, from this Infection, that I may live to praiſe and glorifie thy name: but, O Lord if thou haſt appointed me to die of it, fit me for death, that I may die with comfort; and, O Lord, I pray thee to help me to bear up under all afflictions, for Chriſt his ſake. Amen.

24. He

24 He was not a little concerned for the whole nation, and begged that God would pardon the sins of the Land, and bring it nearer to himself.

25. About the beginning of *Novemb*, 1665. this sweet Child was smote with the Distemper, but he carried it with admirable patience under the hand of God.

26. These are some of his dying Expressions ——*The Lord shall be my Physician, for he will cure both Soul and body —Heaven is the best Hospital.—It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth good in his eyes.* Again, —— *it is the Lord that taketh away my health, but I will say as* Job *did*, Blessed be the name of the Lord. —— *If I should live longer, I should but sin against God.* Looking upon his Father, he said, *If the Lord would but lend me the least finger of his hand to lead me through the dark entry of Death, I will rejoyce in him.*

27. When a Minister came to him, amongst other things he spake some-

ſomewhat of life. He ſaid, *This is a wicked world, yet it is good to live with my Parents, but it is better to live in Heaven.* ——

23. An hour and an half before his Death, the ſame Miniſter came again to viſit him, and asked him, John, *art thou not afraid to die:* He anſwered, *No, if the Lord will but comfort me in that hour.* But ſaid the Miniſter, *How canſt thou expect Comfort, ſeeing we deſerve none?* He anſwered, *No, if I had my deſerts I had been in Hell long ago. But,* replied the Miniſter, *which way doſt thou expect Comfort and Salvation, ſeeing thou art a Sinner.* He anſwered, *In Chriſt alone.* —— In whom, about an hour and an half after, he fell aſleep, ſaying he would take a long ſleep, charging them that were about him not to wake him.

He died when he was twelve years three weeks and a day old.

EXAM-

Example IX.

Of a Child that was very eminent when she was between 5 or 6 years old, with some memorable passages of her life, who died about 1640.

ANn *Lane* was born of honest Parents in *Colebrook* in the County of *Bucks*, who was no sooner able to speak plain, and express any thing considerable of reason, but she began to act as if she was sanctified from the very womb.

2. She was very solicitous about her soul, what would become of it when she should die, and where she should live for ever, and what she should do to be saved, when she was about five years old.

3. She was wont to be oft ingaged in secret Prayer, and pouring out of her Soul in such manner as is rarely to be heard of from one of her years.

4. I having occasion to lie at *Colebrook* sent for her Father, an old

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Disciple, an Israelite indeed, and desired him to give me some account of his Experiences, and how the Lord first wrought upon him.

5. He gave me this answer, that he was of a Child somewhat civil, honest, and as to man harmless, but was little acquainted with the power of Religion, till this sweet Child put him upon a thorow inquiry into the state of his Soul, and would still be begging of him, and pleading with him to redeem his time, and to act with life and vigor in the things of God, which was no small demonstration to him of the reality of invisibles, that a very Babe and Suckling should speak so feelingly about the things of God, and be so greatly concerned not only about her own soul, but about her Fathers too, which was the occasion of his conversion, and the very thought of it was a quickning to him for thirty years, and he hopes never to wear off the Impressions of it from his spirit.

6. After

6. After this she (as I remember) put her Father upon Family-duties, and if at any time he where for any time out of his shop, she would find him out, and with much sweetness and humility beg of him to come home, and to remember the preciousness of time, for which we must all give an account.

7. She was grieved if she saw any that conversed with her Father if they were unprofitable, unsavory or long in their discourse of common things.

8. Her own Language was the Language of *Canaan*: how solidly, profitably and spiritually would she talk? so that she made good people take great delight in her company, and justly drew the admiration of all that knew her.

9. She could not endure the company of common children, nor play, but was quite above all those things which most Children are taken with; her business was to be read-

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ing, praying, diſcourſing about the things of God, and any kind of buſineſs that her age and ſtrength was capable of: idle ſhe would not be by any means.

10. It was the greateſt Recreation to her to hear any good people talking about God, Chriſt, their Souls, the Scriptures, or any thing that concerned another life.

11. She had a ſtrange contempt of the World, and ſcorned thoſe things which moſt are too much pleaſed with. She could not be brought to wear any Laces, or any thing that ſhe thought ſuperfluous.

12. She would be complaining to her Parents, if ſhe ſaw any thing in them that ſhe judged would not be for the honour of Religion, or ſuitable to that condition which the providence of God had ſet them in, in the world.

13. This Child was the joy and delight of all the Chriſtians thereabouts in thoſe times, who was ſtill

quickning and raising of the spirits of those that talked with her. This poor Babe was a great help to both Father and Mother, and her memory is sweet to this day.

14 She continued thus to walk as a stranger in the world, and one that was making haste to a better place. And after she had done a great deal of work for God and her own soul, and others too, she was called home to rest, and received into the arms of Jesus before she was ten years old; she departed about 1640.

Exam

Example X.

Of a Child that was awakened when ſhe was between ſeven and eight years old, with ſome account of her laſt hours and triumphant Death.

1. *Abitha Alder* was the Daughter of a holy and Reverend Miniſter in *Kent*, who lived near *Graveſend*. She was much inſtructed in the holy Scriptures and her Catechiſm by her father and Mother, but there appeared nothing extraordinary in her till ſhe was between ſeven and eight years old.

2. About which time, when ſhe was ſick, one asked her what ſhe thought would become of her if ſhe ſhould die? She anſwered, that ſhe was greatly afraid that ſhe ſhould go to Hell.

3. Being askt why ſhe was afraid ſhe ſhould go to Hell? She anſwered, becauſe ſhe feared that ſhe did not love God.

4. Again being ask how she did know she did not love God; she replyed, what have I done for God ever since I was born? and besides this, I have been taught, that he that loves God keeps his commandments; but I have kept none of them all.

5. Being further demanded if she would not fain love God? She answered, yes with all her heart, if she could, but she found it a hard thing to love one she did not see.

6. She was adviſed to beg of God a heart to love him: She anſwered, she was afraid it was too late.

7. Being asked again whether she was not ſorry that she could not love God: She anſwered, yes, but was ſtill afraid it was too late.

8. Upon this, ſeeing her in ſuch a deſponding condition, a dear friend of hers ſpent the next day in Faſting and prayer for her.

9. After this, that Chriſtian friend askt her how she did now? She anſwered with a great deal of joy, that

now ſhe bleſſed the Lord, ſhe loved the Lord Jeſus dearly, ſhe felt ſhe did love him. O, ſaid ſhe, I love him dearly.

10. Why, ſaith her friend, did you not ſay yeſterday, that you did not love the Lord, and that you could not? What did you mean to ſpeak ſo ſtrangely? Sure (ſaid ſhe) it was Satan that did put it into my mind: But now I love him, O bleſſed be God for the Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

11. After this ſhe had a diſcovery of her approaching Diſſolution, which was no ſmall comfort to her. Anon (ſaid ſhe with a holy Triumph) I ſhall be with Jeſus, I am married to him, he is my Husband, I am his Bride, I have given my ſelf to him, and he hath given himſelf to me, and I ſhall live with him for ever.

12. This ſtrange language made the hearers even ſtand aſtoniſhed: but thus ſhe continued for ſome little time in a kind of extaſie of joy,

admiring the excellency of Christ, rejoycing in her interest in him, and longing to be with him.

13. After a while some of her friends standing by her, observed a more than ordinary earnestness and fixedness in her countenance; they said one to another, look how earnestly she looks, sure she seeth something.

14. One asked what it was she fixed her eyes upon so eagerly: I warrant (saith one that was by) she seeth death a coming.

15. No (said she) it is glory that I see, 'tis that I fix mine eye upon.

16. One askt her what was glory like? She answered, I can't speak what, but I am going to it; will you go with me? I am going to glory: O that all of you were to go with me to that glory! with which words her Soul took wing, and went to the possession of that glory which she had some believing sight of before. She died when she was between 8 and 9 years old, about 1644.

Exam-

Example XI.

Of a Child that was greatly affected with the things of God when she was very young, with an exact Account of her admirable Carriage upon her Death bed.

1. SUſanna *Bicks* was born at *Leiden* in *Holland*, *Jan.*24. 1650. of very religious Parents, whoſe great care was to inſtruct and catechiſe this their Child, and to preſent her to the Miniſters of the place, to be publickly inſtructed and catechiſed.

2. It pleaſed the Lord to bleſs holy education, the good example of her Parents and catechiſing, to the good of her Soul, ſo that ſhe ſoon had a true ſavour and reliſh of what ſhe was taught, and made an admirable uſe of it in a time of need, as you ſhall hear afterwards.

3. She was a Child of great dutifulneſs to her Parents, and of a

very sweet humble spiritual nature, and not only the truth, but the power and eminency of Religion did shine in her so clearly, that she did not only comfort the hearts of her Parents, but drew the admiration of all that were witnesses of Gods works of love upon her, and may well be proposed as a pattern not only to Children, but to persons of riper years.

4. She continued in a course of Religious Duties for some considerable time, so that her life was more excellent than most Christians; but in her last sickness she excelled her self, and her deportment was so admirable, that partly through wonder and astonishment, and partly through sorrow, many observable things were past by without committing to paper, which deserved to have been written in letters of gold: But take these which follow as some of many which were taken from her dying lips, and first published by religious and judicious Christians

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in *Dutch*, afterward tranſlated into *Scotch*, and with a little alteration of the ſtile (for the benefit of *Engliſh* Children) brought into this form by me.

5. In the month of *Auguſt*, 1664. When the Peſtilence raged ſo much in *Holland*, this ſweet Child was ſmitten, and as ſoon as ſhe felt herſelf very ill, ſhe was ſaid to break forth with abundance of ſenſe and feeling in theſe following words: *If thy Law were not my delight, I ſhould periſh in my affliction.*

6. Her Father coming to her to encourage her in her ſickneſs, ſaid to her, be of good comfort my Child, for the Lord will be near to thee and us, under this heavy and ſore Trial, he will not forſake us though he chaſten us. Yea, Father (ſaid ſhe) our Heavenly Father doth Chaſten us for our profit, that we may be partakers of his holineſs; no chaſtiſement ſeemeth for the preſent to be joyous, but grievous, but afterwards

wards it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness to them which are exercised thereby. The Lord is now chastning of me upon this sick bed, but I hope he will bless it so to me as to cause it to yield to me that blessed fruit, according to the riches of his mercies which fail not.

7. After this she spake to God with her eyes lift up to Heaven, saying, Be merciful to me, O Father, be merciful to me a sinner, according to thy word.

8. Then looking upon her sorrowful Parents, she said; It is said, *Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee, and he will never suffer the righteous to be moved.* Therefore my dear Father and Mother, cast all your care upon him who causes all things to go well that do concern you.

9. Her Mother said unto her, O my dear child, I have no small comfort from the Lord in thee, and the fruit of his grace whereby thou hast

been so much exercised unto godliness in reading the Word, in Prayer and gracious Discourse, to the edification of thy self and us. The Lord himself who gave thee to us, make up this loss, if it be his pleasure to take thee away from us.

10. Dear Mother (said she) though I leave you and you me, yet God will never leave us; for it is said. *Can a woman forget her sucking Child, that she should not have compassion on the fruit of her womb? yet will not I forget thee, behold I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands.* O comfortable words both for Mothers and Children! Mark, dear Mother, how fast the Lord keeps and holdeth his people, that he doth even grave them upon the palms of his hands. Though I must part with you, and you with me, yet blessed be God, he will never part either from you or me.

11. Being weary with much speaking, she desired to rest a while, but

but after a little time awaking again, her Father asked her how it was with her? She made no direct answer, but asked what day it was? her Father said it was the Lords day. Well then, said she, have you given up my name to be remembred in the publick Prayers of the Church: Her Father told her he had. I have learnt, said she, that the effectual fervent Prayer of the righteous availeth much.

12. She had a very high esteem for the faithful Ministers of Christ, and much desired their company where she was; but knowing the hazards that such a visit might expose them and the Church to, she would by no means suffer that the Ministers should come near her person, but chose rather to throw her self upon the arms of the Lord, and to improve that knowledge she had in the World, and her former experience, and the visits of private Christians, and those which the Church

Church had appointed in ſuch caſes to viſit and comfort the ſick.

13. One of thoſe which came to viſit her, was of very great uſe to her to comfort her, and lift her up in ſome meaſure above the fears of death.

14. Though young, ſhe was very much concerned for the intereſt of God and Religion, for Goſpel Miniſters, and for the Sins and the Decay of the power of Godlineſs in her own Country; which will further appear by what may follow.

15. Her Father coming in to her, found her in an extraordinary paſſion of weeping, and askt her what was the cauſe of her great ſorrow? She anſwered, have I not cauſe to weep, when I hear that *Domine de Wit* was taken ſick this day in his Pulpit; and went home very ill? Is not this a ſad ſign of Gods diſpleaſure to our Country, when God ſmiteth ſuch a faithful Paſtor?

16. She had a high valuation of God,

God, and could speak in *David's* language, *whom have I in Heaven but thee! and there is none on earth that I can desire in comparison of thee.*

She was much lifted up above the fears of Death; what else was the meaning of such expressions as these? *O how do I long! even as the Hart panteth after the water-brooks, so my soul panteth after thee, O God, for God, the living God, when shall I come and appear before God?*

17. She was a great hater of sin, and did with much grief and self-abhorrency reflect upon it; but that which lay most upon her heart was the Corruption of her Nature and Original Sin. How oft would she cry out in the words of the Psalmist, *Behold I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my Mother conceive me, and I was altogether born in sin:* She could never lay her self low enough under a sense of that Original Sin which she brought with her into the world.

18. She

18. She ſpake many things very judiciouſly of the old man and putting it off, and of the new man and putting that on; which ſhewed that ſhe was no ſtranger to converſion, and that ſhe in ſome meaſure underſtood what Mortification, Self-denial and taking up of her Croſs, and following of Chriſt meant. That Scripture was much in her mouth, *The ſacrifices of God are a contrite heart; a broken and a contrite ſpirit, O God, thou wilt not deſpiſe.* That brokenneſs of heart (ſaid ſhe) which is built upon and flows from faith, and that faith which is built upon Chriſt, who is the proper and alone Sacrifice for ſin. Theſe are her own words.

19. Afterwards ſhe deſired to reſt, and when ſhe had ſlumbred a while, ſhe ſaid, O dear Father and Mother, how weak do I feel my ſelf! My dear Child (ſaid her Father) God will in his tender mercy ſtrengthen thee in thy weakneſs. Yea

Yea Father (ſaid ſhe) that is my confidence: For it is ſaid, *The bruiſed reed he will not break, and the ſmoking flax he will not quench.*

20. Then ſhe diſcourſed excellently of the nature of Faith, and deſired that the eleventh of the *Hebrews* ſhould be read unto her; at the reading of which ſhe cryed out, O what a ſtedfaſt loyal faith was that of *Abraham*, which made him willing to offer up his own and only Son! Faith is the ſubſtance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not ſeen.

21. Her Father and Mother hearing her excellent diſcourſe, and ſeeing her admirable carriage, burſt out into abundance of tears: upon which ſhe pleaded with them to be patient and content with the hand of God. O (ſaid ſhe) why do you weep at this rate over me, ſeeing, I hope you have no reaſon to queſtion, but if the Lord take me out of this miſerable world it ſhall be well with

with me to all eternity? You ought to be well ſatisfied, ſeeing it is ſaid *God is in Heaven, and doth whatſoevr pleaſeth him:* and do you not pray every day, that the will of God may be done upon earth as it is in Heaven. Now Father, this is Gods will that I ſhould lie upon this ſick bed, and of this diſeaſe; ſhall we not be content when our Prayers are anſwered? Would not your extream ſorrow be murmuring againſt God, without whoſe good pleaſure nothing comes to paſs. Although I am ſtruck with this ſad diſeaſe, yet becauſe it is the will of God, that doth ſilence me, and I will as long as I live pray that Gods will may be done and not mine.

22. Seeing her Parents ſtill very much moved, ſhe further argued with them from the Providence of God, which had a ſpecial hand in every common thing, much more in the diſpoſal of the lives of men and women: *Are not two Sparrows ſold*

ſold for a farthing, and not one of them falls to the ground without our Heavenly Father? Yea, *the hairs of our head are all numbred; therefore fear not, you are of more value than many Sparrows.* Adverſity and Proſperity they are both good. Some things ſeem evil in our eyes, but the Lord turns all to the good of them which are his.

23. She came then to ſpeak particularly concerning the Plague, Doth not (ſaid ſhe) the Peſtilence come from God; why elſe doth the Scripture ſay, *ſhall there be evil in the City which I have not ſent?* What do thoſe people mean, which ſay the Peſtilence comes from the Air? Is not the Lord the Creator and Ruler of the Air, and are not the Elements under his Government? Or if they ſay it comes from the Earth, hath he not the ſame power and influence upon that too? What talk they of a Ship that came from *Africa?* have we not read long ago together out of

Lev.

Lev. 26. 25. *I ſhall bring a ſword upon you, and avenge the quarrel of my Covenant, and when you are aſſembled in the Cities, then will I bring the peſtilence in the midſt of you.*

24. After this, having taken ſome little reſt, ſhe ſaid, O now is the day for the opening of the firſt queſtion of the Catechiſm, and if we were there, we ſhould hear, that whether in death or life a Believer is Chriſts, who hath redeemed us by his own precious blood from the power of the Devil; and then ſhe quoted *Rom.* 14. 7, 8. *For none of us liveth unto himſelf, and none of us dieth to himſelf. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether then we live or die, we are the Lords.* Then be comforted, for whether I live or die, I am the Lords. O why do you afflict your ſelves thus? but what ſhall I ſay? with weeping I came into the world, and with weeping I muſt go out again. O my dear Parents, better

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ter is the day of my death than the day of my birth.

25. When she had thus encouraged her Father and Mother, she desired her Father to pray with her, and to requeſt of the Lord that she might have a quiet and peaceable passage into another world.

26. After her Father had prayed for her, he asked her whether he should send for the Pryſician? she answered, by no means, for I am now beyond the help of Doctors. But said he, my Child, we are to use the ordinary means appointed by the Lord for our help as long as we live, and let the Lord do as seemeth good in his eyes. But said she, give me the heavenly Phyſician, he is the only helper: doth not he say, *Come unto me ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give ye reſt*; and doth not he bid us call upon him in the day of diſtreſs, and he will deliver us, and we shall glorifie him: Therefore, dear Father, call upon him yet again for me.

27. About

27. About this time a Chriſtian friend came to viſit her, who was not a little comforted when he heard and ſaw ſo much of the grace of God living in a poor young thing, which could not but ſo far affect him as to draw tears out of joy and admiration from him; and her deportment was ſo teaching, that he could not but acknowledg himſelf greatly edifi'd and improv'd by her carriage and language.

28. That which was not the leaſt obſervable in her, was the ardent affection ſhe had for the holy Scriptures and her Catechiſm, in which ſhe was throughly inſtructed by the godly Divines of the place where ſhe lived, which ſhe could not but own as one of the greateſt mercies next the Lord Chriſt. O how did ſhe bleſs God for her Catechiſm, and beg of her Father to go particularly to thoſe Miniſters that had taken ſo much pains with her to inſtruct her in her Catechiſm, and to thank

thank them from her a dying Child for their good inſtructions, and to let them underſtand, for their encouragement to go on in that work of Catechiſing, How refreſhing thoſe truths were now to her in the hour of her diſtreſs. O that ſweet catechiſing, ſaid ſhe, unto which I did always reſort with gladneſs, and attended without wearineſs!

29. She was much above the vanities of the world, and took no pleaſure at all in thoſe things which uſually take up the heart and time of young ones. She would ſay, that ſhe was grieved and aſhamed both for young and old, to ſee how glad and mad they were upon vanity, and how fooliſhly they ſpent their time.

30. She was not forgetful of the care and love of her Maſter and Miſtreſs which taught her to read and work; but ſhe deſired that thanks might alſo be particularly given to them. Indeed ſhe thought ſhe could never be thankful enough

both

both to God and man for that kindneſs that ſhe had experience of: But again and again ſhe deſired to be ſure to thank the Miniſters that inſtructed her either by catechiſing or preaching.

31. After ſome reſt her Father askt her again how ſhe did, and began to expreſs ſomewhat of that ſatisfaction and joy that he had taken in her former diligence in her reading the Scriptures and writing, and her dutifulneſs, and that great progreſs that ſhe had made in the things of God: upon which ſhe humbly and ſweetly deſired to own God and his kindneſs in her godly education, and ſaid that ſhe eſteemed her holy education under ſuch Parents and Miniſters as a greater portion than ten thouſand Gilders, for thereby I have learned to comfort my ſelf out of the Word of God, which the World beſides could never have afforded.

32. Her Father perceiving her to grow

grow very weak, ſaid, I perceive Child thou art very weak: It is true Sir (ſaid ſhe) I feel my weakneſs increaſeth, and I ſee your ſorrow increaſing too, which is a piece of my affliction; be content, I pray you, it is the Lord which doth it, and let you and I ſay with *David*, *Let us fall into the Lords hands, for his mercies are great.*

33. She laid a great charge upon her Parents not to be over grieved for her after her death, urging that of *David* upon them, while the Child was ſick, he faſted and wept, but when it died, he waſhed his face and ſat up and eat, and ſaid, *Can I bring him back again from death? I ſhall go to him but he ſhall not return to me.* So ought you to ſay after my death, our Child is well, for we know it ſhall be well with them that truſt in the Lord. She did lay a more particular and ſtreight charge upon her Mother; ſaying to her, dear Mother, who have

have done so much for me, you must promise me one thing before I die; and that is, that you will nor sorrow over-much for me: I speak thus to you, because I am afraid of your great affection; consider others Losses what they have been; Remember *Job*; forget not what Christ foretold; *In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, in me you shall have peace*; and must the Apostles suffer so great tribulation, and must we suffer none? Did not Jesus Christ my only Life and Saviour sweat drops of blood? Was he not in a bitter agony, mocked, spit at, nailed to the Cross, and a Spear thrust thorow his blessed side, and all this for my sake, for my stinking sins sake? did not he cry out, *my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* Did not Christ hang naked upon the Cross to purchase for me the garments of salvation, and to clothe me with his righteousness? for there

is Salvation in no other name.

34. Being very feeble and weak, ſhe ſaid, O if I might quietly ſleep in the boſome of Jeſus! and that till then he would ſtrengthen me! O that he would take me into his arms as he did thoſe little ones, where he ſaid, *Suffer little chilaren to come unto me, for of ſuch is the Kingdom of Heaven, and he took them into his arms, and laid his hands on them, and bleſſed them.* I lie here as a Child, O Lord I am thy Child, receive me into thy gracions arms. O Lord, grace! grace! and not juſtice, for if thou ſhouldſt enter into judgement with me, I cannot ſtand, yea none living ſhould be juſt in thy ſight.

35. After this ſhe cryed out, O how faint am I! but fearing leſt ſhe ſhould diſhearten her Mother, ſhe ſaid, while there is life there is hope: If it ſhould pleaſe the Lord to recover me, how careful would I be to pleaſe you in my work and

learning, and whatſoever you ſhould require of me.

36. After this the Lord did again ſend her ſtrength, and ſhe laboured to ſpend it all for Chriſt in the awakening, edifying and comforting of thoſe that were about her; but her chiefeſt endeavour was to ſupport her dear Parents from extraordinary ſorrow, and to comfort them out of the Scriptures, telling them that ſhe knew that *all things did work together for the good of them that did love God, even to thoſe which are called according to his purpoſe; O God eſtabliſh me with thy free Spirit! Who ſhall ſeparate us from the love of Chriſt? I am perſwaded that neither life nor death, nor Angels, nor Principalities, nor powers, nor things preſent nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature ſhall ſeparate us from the love of God which is towards us in Chriſt Jeſus our Lord. My ſheep* (ſaith Chriſt) *hear my voice,*

and I know them and they follow me, and I give unto them eternal life, and they ſhall never periſh, and no man ſhall pluck them out of my hands. My Father who gave them me is greater than all, and none ſhall pull them out of my Fathers hands. Thus ſhe ſeemed to attain a holy confidence in God, and an aſſurance of her ſtate as to another world.

37. When ſhe had a little refreſhed her ſelf with reſt, ſhe burſt forth with abundance of joy and gladneſs of heart, with a holy triumph of faith, ſaying out, Death is ſwallowed up of victory, *O death where is thy ſting? O grave where is thy victory? the ſting of death is ſin, and the ſtrength of ſin is the law, but thanks be to God who hath given us the victory through our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt.*

38. That ſhe might the better ſupport her friends, ſhe ſtill inſiſted upon that which might take off ſome of their burden, by urging the neceſ-

ſity

ſity of death: *We are from the earth, and to the earth we muſt return: Duſt is the mother of us all, the duſt ſhall turn to duſt from whence it is, and the Spirit to God which gave it.*

39. Then ſhe diſcourſed of the ſhortneſs of mans life. O what is the life of man! *the days of man upon the earth are as the graſs and the flowers of the field, ſo he flouriſheth, the wind paſſeth over it and it is no more, and his place knows him no more.*

40. She further urged the ſin and ſorrow that did attend us in this life, and the longer we live the more we ſin; now the Lord will free me from that ſin and ſorrow. We know not the thoughts of God, yet we do know ſo much, that they are mercy and peace, and to give an expected end. But what ſhall I ſay? my life ſhall not continue long, I feel much weakneſs. O Lord look upon me graciouſly, have pitie upon my weak diſtreſſed heart. I am oppreſſed, undertake for me, that

I may ſtand faſt and overcome.

41. She was very frequent in ſpiritual ejaculations, and it was no ſmall comfort to her, that the Lord Chriſt did pray for her, and promiſe to ſend his ſpirit to comfort her. It's ſaid (ſaid ſhe) *I will pray the Father, and he ſhall give you another Comforter.* O let not him leave me! O Lord, continue with me till my battel and work be finiſhed.

42. She had very low and undervaluing thoughts of her ſelf and her own righteouſneſs; what meant ſhe elſe to cry out in ſuch language as that, None but Chriſt! without thee I can do nothing. Chriſt is the true vine, O let me be a branch of that vine! What poor worms are we! O dear Father, how lame and halting do we go in the ways of God and Salvation. We know but in part: but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is imperfect ſhall be done away. O that

I had

I had attained to that now: But what are we of our ſelves? not only weakneſs and nothingneſs, but wickedneſs. For all the thoughts and imaginations of mans heart are only evil, and that continually; we are by nature children of wrath, and are conceived and born in ſin and unrighteouſneſs. Oh! Oh! this wretched and vile thing Sin! but thanks be to God who hath redeemed me from it.

43. She comforted her ſelf and her Father in that great Scripture *Rom.* 8. 15, 16, 17. *Ye have not received the ſpirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the ſpirit of adoption by which ye cry Abba, Father. It is the ſpirit that witneſſeth with our ſpirits, that we are the Children of God; and if Children, then are we heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Chriſt.* You ſee thence Father, that I ſhall be a fellow heir with Chriſt, who hath ſaid, *In my Fathers houſe are many*

mansions, if it were not so I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to my self, that where I am there ye may be also. O Lord take me to thy self. Behold, dear Mother, he hath prepared a place and dwelling for me.

44. Yea, my dear Child, said her Mother, he shall strengthen you with his holy Spirit, until he hath fitted and prepared you fully for that place which he hath prepared for you.

45. Yea Mother, it is said in the 84. Psalm, *How lovely are thy Tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts, my soul doth thirst, and longeth for the Courts of the Lord: One day in thy Courts is better than a thousand; yea, I had rather be a Door keeper in the house of God, than dwell in the tents of the wicked.* Read that Psalm, dear Mother, therewith we may comfort one another. As for me, I

am

am more and more ſpent, and draw near my laſt hour.

46. Then ſhe deſired to be prayed with, and begged that the Lord would give her an eaſie paſſage.

47. After this, ſhe turned to her Mother, and with much affection ſhe ſaid, Ah my dear and loving Mother; that which cometh from the heart doth ordinarily go to the heart, once more come and kiſs me before I leave you.

48. She was not a little concerned about the ſouls of the reſt of her relations, and did particularly charge it upon her Father to do what he could poſſibly to bring them up in the ways of God. O let my Siſter be trained up in the Scriptures and Catechiſing, as I have been.

49. I formerly wept for my Siſter, thinking that ſhe ſhould die before me, and now ſhe weepeth for me, and then ſhe kiſſed her weeping Siſter. Alſo ſhe took her young little Siſter in her arms, a

Child of ſix months old, and ſhe kiſſed it with much affection, as if her very bowels had moved within her, and ſpoke with many heart-breaking words both to her Parents and the Children.

50. Her Father ſpake to one that was by, to take the poor little Child away from her, from the hazard of that fiery diſtemper, and bid his Daughter to give her from her, for he had already too much to bear. Well Father, ſaid ſhe, did not God preſerve the three Children in the fiery furnace, and did not you teach me that Scripture, *When thou paſſeſt thorow the Fire, thou ſhalt not be burnt, neither ſhall the flame kindle upon thee.*

51. She had a very ſtrong Faith in the doctrine of the Reſurrection, and did greatly ſolace her Soul with excellent Scriptures, which do ſpeak the happy ſtate of Believers as ſoon as their ſouls are ſeparated from their Bodies; and what ſhe quoted

quoted out of the Scripture, ſhe did excellently and ſuitably apply to her own uſe, incomparably above the common reach of her ſex and age. That in 1 *Cor.* 15. 42. was a great ſupport to her, *The body is ſown in corruption, but it ſhall be raiſed incorruptible: it is ſown in diſhonour, it ſhall be raiſed in glory; it is ſown in weakneſs, but it ſhall be raiſed in power.* And then ſhe ſweetly applies it, and takes in this cordial. Behold thus it is, and thus it ſhall be with my poor mortal fleſh. *Bleſſed are the dead which die in the Lord, becauſe they reſt from their labours, and their works do follow them. The righteous periſh, and no man layeth it to heart: and the upright are taken away, and no man regardeth it, that they are taken away from the evil to come: they ſhall enter into peace, they ſhall reſt in their beds, every one who walked in their uprightneſs.* Behold now Father I ſhall reſt and ſleep in that Bedchamber.

52. Then

52. Then she quoted *Job* 19. 25, 26, 27. *I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the later end upon the earth: and though after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God, whom I shall see for my self, and my eyes shall behold, and not another, though my reins be consumed within me.* Behold now Father, this very skin which you see, and this very flesh which you see, shall be raised up again; and these very eyes which now are so dim, shall on that day see and behold my dear and precious Redeemer; albeit the worms eat up my flesh, yet with these eyes shall I behold God, even I my self, and not another for me.

53. Then she quoted *Joh.* 5. 28. *Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming in which all that are in their graves shall hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good unto the Resurrection of Life.* See Father, I shall rise in that day, and then I shall

ſhall behold my Redeemer; then ſhall he ſay, *Come, ye bleſſed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you before the beginning of the world.*

54. *Behold now I live, yet not I, but Chriſt liveth in me; and the life that I now live in the fleſh is by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himſelf for me. I am ſaved, and that not of my ſelf, it is the gift of God, not of works, that no man ſhould boaſt.*

55. My dear Parents, now we muſt ſhortly part, my ſpeech faileth me, pray the Lord for a quiet cloſe to my combat.

56. Her Parents replied, Ah our dear Child, how ſad is that to us that we muſt part! She anſwered, I go to Heaven, and there we ſhall find one another again, I go to Jeſus Chriſt.

57. Then ſhe comforted her ſelf to think of her ſeeing her precious Brother and Siſter again in glory.

I go

I go to my brother *Jacob*, who did ſo much cry and call upon God to the laſt moment of his breath: And to my little ſiſter, who was but three years old when ſhe died: who when we asked her whether ſhe would die; anſwered, yes, if it be the Lords will. I will go to my little Brother, if it be the Lords will, or I will ſtay with my Mother, if it be the Lords will. But I know that I ſhall die and go to Heaven, and to God. O ſee, how ſo ſmall a babe had ſo much given it to behave it ſelf every way, and in all things ſo ſubmiſſively to the will of God, as if it had no will of its own; but if it be the will of God, if it pleaſe God, nothing for her, but what was the will and pleaſure of God: And therefore, dear Father and Mother, give the Lord thanks for this his free and rich grace, and then I ſhall the more gladly be gone. Be gracious then, O Lord, unto me alſo, be gracious

to

to me. Wash me thorowly from my unrighteousness, and cleanse me from my sin.

58. After this her spirit was refreshed with the sense of the pardon of her sins, which made her to cry out, Behold God hath washed away my sins. O how do I long to die! The Apostle said, *In this body we earnestly sigh and groan, longing for our house which is in Heaven, that we may be clothed therewith.* Now I also lie here sighing and longing for that dwelling which is above. In the last Sermon which I heard, or ever shall hear, I heard this in the New Church, which is matter of great comfort unto me.

59. Then she repeated several notable Scriptures which were quoted in that Sermon, afterward she desired to be prayed with, and put petitions into their mouths, *viz.* that all her sins might be forgiven, that she might have more abundant faith

faith, and the assurance of it; and the comfort of that assurance, and the continuation and strength of that comfort, according as her necessity should require. Afterwards she prayed her self, and continued a pretty space.

60. When Prayer was ended, she called to her Father and Mother, and demanded of them whether she had at any time angred or grieved them, or done any thing that did not become her? and begged of them to forgive her.

61. They answered her, that if all children had carried themselves so to their Parents as she had done, there would be less grief and sorrow on all hands than there is; and if any such thing hath escaped thee, we would forgive it with all our hearts, you have done as became a good Child.

62. Her heart being quieted with her peace with God and her Parents, she began to dispose of her Books;

Books; particularly she intreated her Mother to keep Mr. *De Wit*'s Catechise Lectures as long as she lived, for her sake, and let my little Sister have my other Book as my remembrance.

63. Then she said she felt her breast exceedingly pained, by which she knew that her end was very nigh. Her Father spake to her as he was able, telling her the Lord would be her strength in the hour of her necessity.

64. Yea (said she) *The Lord is my Shepherd, although I pass through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not fear, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me:* and it is said, *the sufferings of this present life are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.* Shall I not suffer and indure, seeing my glorious Redeemer was pleased to suffer so much for me. O how was he mocked and crowned with thorns that he

he might purchase a Crown of righteousness for us: And that is the crown of which *Paul* spoke, when he said, *I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge shall give unto me in that day; and not only to me, but to all who love his appearing.*

65. *Ye are bought with a price, therefore Glorifie God with your souls and bodies which are his.* Must I not then exalt and bless him while I have a being, who hath bought me, ye bought me with his blood? *Surely he hath born our griefs, and took our infirmities; and we esteemed him smitten and stricken of God: But he was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our sin, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed: and the Lord laid upon him the iniquity of us all. Behold the Lamb of*

God

God that taketh away the ſins of the world: That Lamb is Jeſus Chriſt who hath ſatisfied for my ſins. So ſaith *Paul*, *Ye are waſhed, ye are ſanctified, ye are juſtified in the name of our Lord Jeſus, and through the ſpirit of our God.*

66. My end is now very near, now I ſhall put on white raiment and be clothed before the Lamb, that ſpotleſs Lamb, and with his ſpotleſs righteouſneſs. Now are the angels making ready to carry my ſoul before the throne of God. *Theſe are they who are come out of great tribulation, who have waſhed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

67. She ſpoke this with a dying voice, but full of ſpirit and of the power of faith.

68. Her lively aſſurance ſhe further uttred in the words of the Apoſtle. *We know that if this earthly houſe, if our tabernacle be diſſolved, we have one which is built of God, which is eternal*

in

in the heavens; for in this we sigh for our house which is in Heaven, that we may be clothed therewith.

69. There Father you see that my body is this Tabernacle which now shall be broken down; my Soul shall now part from it, and shall be taken up into the heavenly Paradise, into that heavenly *Jerusalem*. There shall I dwell and go no more out, but sit and sing, *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of hosts, the Lord of Sabbaths!* Her last words were these, O Lord God into thy hands I commit my spirit, O Lord be gracious, be merciful to me a poor sinner.—And here she fell asleep.

70. She died the first of *September*, 1664. Betwixt seven and eight in the evening, in the fourteenth year of her age; having obtained that which she so oft intreated of the Lord, a quiet and easie departure, and the end of her faith, the salvation of her soul.

Example XII.

Of the excellent carriage of a Child upon his death bed when but seven years old.

Jacob Bicks, the Brother of *Susannah Bicks*, was born in *Leiden* the year, 1657. and had religious education under his godly Parents, the which the Lord was pleased to sanctifie to his Converſion, and by it lay in excellent proviſions to live upon in an hour of diſtreſs.

2. This ſweet little Child was viſited of the Lord of a very ſore ſickneſs upon the ſixth of *Auguſt*, 1664. three or four weeks before his Siſter, of whoſe life and death we have given you ſome account already: in his diſtemper he was for the moſt part very ſleepy and drouſie till near his death, but when he did wake he was wont ſtill to fall a praying.

3. Once when his Parents had

prayed with him, they asked him if they ſhould once more ſend for the Phyſician? No (ſaid he) I will have the Doctor no more; the Lord will help me: I know he will take me to himſelf, and then he ſhall help all

4. Ah my dear Child, ſaid his Father, that grieveth my heart: Well (ſaid the Child) Father let us pray, and the Lord ſhall be near for my helper.

5. When his Parents had prayed with him again, he ſaid, Come now dear Father and Mother and kiſs me I know that I ſhall die.

6. Farewel dear Father and Mother, Farewel dear Siſter, farewel all Now ſhall I go to Heaven unto God and Jeſus Chriſt, and the holy Angels: Father, know you not what is ſaid by *Jeremiah*: *Bleſſed is he who truſteth in the Lord*: now truſt in him, and he will bleſs me And in 1 *John* 2. it is ſaid, *Little Children love not the world, for the world paſſeth away.*

7. Awa

7. Away then all that is in the world, away with all my pleaſant things in the world: away with my Dagger, for where I go there is nothing to do with Daggers and Swords; men ſhall not fight there, but praiſe God. Away with all my books; there ſhall I know ſufficiently, and be learned in all things of true wiſdom without books.

8. His Father being touched to hear his Child ſpeak at this rate, could not well tell what to ſay; but my dear Child, the Lord will be near thee, and uphold thee.

9. Yea Father (ſaid he) the Apoſtle *Peter* ſaith, *God reſiſteth the proud, but he giveth grace to the humble.* I ſhall humble my ſelf under the mighty hand of God, and he ſhall help and lift me up.

10. O my dear Child, ſaid his Father, haſt thou ſo ſtrong a faith?

11. Yea, ſaid the Child, God hath given me ſo ſtrong a faith upon himſelf through Jeſus Chriſt, that

that the Devil himſelf ſhall flee from me, for it is ſaid, *He who believeth in the Son hath everlaſting life, and he hath overcome the wicked one.* Now I believe in Jeſus Chriſt my Redeemer, and he will not leave or forſake me, but ſhall give unto me eternal life, and then I ſhall ſing, *holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Sabbath.*

12. Then with a ſhort word of Prayer, Lord be merciful to me a poor ſinner, he quietly breathed out his Soul, and ſweetly ſlept in Jeſus when he was about ſeven years old. He died *Auguſt* 8. 1664.

Example XIII.

Of one that began to look towards Heaven, when he was very young, with many eminent paſſages of his life, and his joyful death, when he was eleven years and three quarters old.

1. *John Harvy* was born in *London*, in the year 1654. His Father was a Dutch Merchant, he was piouſly educated under his virtuous Mother, and ſoon began to ſuck in divine things with no ſmall delight.

2. The firſt thing very obſervable in him was, that when he was two years and eight months old, he could ſpeak as well as other children do uſually at five years old.

3. His Parents judging that he was then a little too young to ſend

out to ſchool, let him have his liberty, to play a little about their yard, but inſtead of playing, he found out a ſchool of his own accord hard by home, and went to the ſchool-Miſtriſs, and intreated her to teach him to read, and ſo he went for ſome time to School without the knowledge of his Parents, and made a very ſtrange progreſs in his learning, and was able to read diſtinctly before moſt Children are able to know their letters.

4. He was wont to ask many ſerious and weighty queſtions about matters which concerned his ſoul and Eternity.

5. His Mother being greatly troubled upon the death of one of his Uncles, this Child came to his Mother, and ſaid; Mother, though my Uncle be dead, doth not the Scripture ſay, he muſt riſe again; yea, and I muſt die, and ſo muſt every body, and it will not be long before Chriſt will come to judge the world

world and then we ſhall ſee one another again. I pray Mother do not weep ſo much. This grave Counſel he gave his Mother, when he was not quite five years old, by which her ſorrow for her Brother was turned into admiration at her Child, and ſhe was made to ſit ſilent and quiet under that ſmarting ſtroke.

9. After this, his Parents removed to *Aberdeen* in *Scotland*, and ſetled their Child under an able and a painful School-Maſter there, whoſe cuſtom was upon the Lords day in the morning, to examine his ſcholars concerning the Sermons that they had heard the former Lords day, and to add ſome other queſtions which might try the underſtanding and knowledge of his Scholars; the queſtion that was once propoſed to his form was, whether God had a Mother? none of all the Scholars could anſwer it, till it came to *John Harvy*,

who being asked, whether God had a Mother, answered no; as he was God, he could not have a Mother, but as he was man, he had; this was before he was quite six years old. His Master was somewhat amazed at the Childs answer, and took the first opportunity to go to his Mother, to thank her for instructing her Son so well; but she replyed, that he was never taught that from her, but that he understood it by reading, and his own observation.

7. He was a Child that was extraordinary inquisitive, and full of good questions, and very careful to observe and remember what he heard.

8. He had a great hatred of whatsoever he knew to be displeasing to God, and was so greatly concerned for the honour of God, that he would take on bitterly, if that any gross sins were committed before him. And he had

had a deep ſenſe of the worth of Souls, and was not a little grieved when he ſaw any one do that which he knew was dangerous to their Souls.

9. One day ſeeing one of his near Relations come into his Fathers Houſe diſtempered with drink as he thought, he quickly went very ſeriouſly to him and wept over him, that he ſhould ſo offend God, and hazard his Soul, and beg'd of him to ſpend his time better than in drinking and gaming, and this he did, without any inſtruction from his Parents, but from an inward principle of grace, and love to God and ſouls as it is verily believed.

10. When he was at play with other Children, he would be oftentimes putting in ſome word to keep them from naughty talk, or wicked actions, and if any did take the Lords name in vain, or do any thing that was not becoming of a good Child, they ſhould ſoon hear of it

with a witneſs; nay once hearing a boy ſpeak very profanely, and that after two or three admonitions, he would not forbear nor go out of his company neither, he was ſo tranſported with zeal, that he could not forbear falling upon him to beat him; but his Mother chiding of him for it, he ſaid, that he could not indure to hear the name of God ſo abuſed by a wretched boy. This is obſerved not to vindicate the act, but to take notice of his zeal.

11. He was a Child that took great delight in the Company of good men, and eſpecially, Miniſters and Scholars; and if he had any leiſure-time, he would improve it by viſiting of ſuch, whoſe diſcourſe might make him wiſer and better; and when he was in their ſociety, to be ſure his talk was more like a Chriſtian and Scholar, than a Child.

12. One day after School-time was over, he gave Mr. *Andrew Kant*

Kant (one of the Miniſters of *Aberdeen*) a viſit, and asked him ſeveral ſolid queſtions, but the good man asked him ſome queſtions out of his Catechiſm: and finding him not ſo ready in the anſwers as he ſhould have been, did a little reprove him, and told him, that he muſt be ſure to get his Catechiſm perfectly by heart; the Child took the reproof very well, and went home and fell very hot upon his Catechiſm, and never left, till he got it by heart, and not only ſo, but he would be enquiring into the ſenſe and meaning of it.

12. He was ſo greatly taken with his Catechiſm, that he was not content to learn it himſelf, but he would be putting others upon learning their Catechiſm, eſpecially thoſe that were neareſt to him; he could not be ſatisfied, till he had perſwaded his Mothers Maids to learn it, and when they were at work, he would be ſtill following them with

ſome good queſtion or other; ſo that the Child ſeemed to be taken up with the thoughts of his Soul and Gods honour, and the good of others ſouls.

14. He was a conſcientious obſerver of the Lords Day, ſpending all the time either in ſecret prayer, or reading the Scriptures, and good books; Learning of his Catechiſm, and learning of the Word of God, and publick duties; and was not only careful in the performance of theſe duties himſelf, but was ready to put all that he knew upon a ſtrict obſervation of the Lords day; and was exceedingly grieved at the profanation of it; one Lords day a ſervant of his Fathers going out of the huſe upon an extraordinary occaſion to fetch ſome Beer, he took on ſo bitterly, that he could ſcarce be pacified, becauſe that holy day was ſo abuſed (as he judged) in his Fathers houſe.

15. When he was betwixt ſix and

and ſeven years old, it pleaſed God to afflict him with ſore eyes which was no ſmall exerciſe to him, becauſe it kept him from School which he loved as well as many Boys do their play, and that which was worſe, he was commanded by the Doctor not to read any Book whatſoever, at home. But, O how was this poor Child grieved, that he might not have liberty to read the holy Scriptures; and for all their charge he would get by himſelf, and ſtand by the windows, and read the Bible and good Books; yea he was ſo greedy of reading the Scripture, and took ſo much delight in it, that he would ſcarce allow himſelf ſometimes time to dreſs himſelf for reading, the Word of God was his great delight. Yea, though he hath been beat for ſtudying ſo much, yet judging it Gods command that he ſhould give himſelf up to read-

ing, he could not be beat off from it, till he was so bad, that he had like never to have recovered his sight more.

16. It was his practice to be much by himself in secret prayer, and he was careful to manage that work, so as that it might be as secret as possible it might be, but his frequency and constancy made it to be so easily observed; upon which, one time one having a great mind to know what this sweet babe prayed for, got into a place near him, and heard him very earnestly praying for the Church of God, desiring that the Kingdom of the Gospel might be spread over the whole world, and that the Kingdom of grace might more and more come into the hearts of Gods people, and that the Kingdom of glory might be hastned. He was wont to continue half an hour, sometimes an hour, upon his knees together.

17. He

17. He was much above the vanities that moſt Children are taken with, and was indeed too much a man to live long.

18. He was very humble and modeſt, and did by no means affect fineneſs in apparel, but hated any thing more than neceſſaries either in cloths or diet.

19. When he perceived either his Brother or Siſter pleaſed with their new clothes, he would with a great deal of gravity reprove their folly, and when his reproof ſignified little, he would bewail their vanity.

20. Once he had a new ſuit brought from the Tailors, which when he looked on, he found ſome ribbons at the knees, at which he was grieved: asking his Mother, whether thoſe things would keep him warm. No, Child ſaid his Mother; why then ſaid he, do you ſuffer them to be put here, you are miſtaken, if you think ſuch

ſuch things pleaſe me; and I doubt ſome that are better than us, may want the money that this coſt you, to buy them bread.

21. He would intreat his Mother to have a care of gratifying a proud humour in his Brother and Siſters, he did tell them of the danger of pride, and how little reaſon they had to be proud of that which was their ſhame; for ſaid he, if it had not been for ſin we ſhould have had no need of clothes.

22. At leiſure times, he would be talking to his School-fellows about the things of God, and urge the neceſſity of a holy Life; that Text he much ſpoke on to them; *the Axe is laid to the root of the tree, and every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit, is hewn down and caſt into the fire.* Every Mothers Child of us that doth not bring forth the fruit of good works, ſhall ſhortly be cut down with

with the Axe of Gods wrath, and caſt into the fire of Hell; and this he ſpake like one that believed and felt the power of what he ſpake, and not with the leaſt viſibility of a childiſh levity of ſpirit. This was when he was between ſeven and eight years old, and if he perceived any Children unconcerned about their Souls, he would be greatly troubled at it.

23. After this, his Parents removed not far from *London*, where he continued till that dreadful year ſixty five; he was then ſent to the Latine School, where he ſoon made a very conſiderable Progreſs, and was greatly beloved of his Maſter; the School was his beloved place, and learning his recreation. He was never taught to write, but took it of his own ingenuity.

24. He was exceeding dutiful to his Parents, and never did in the leaſt diſpute their command,

(except, when he thought they might croſs the command of God) as in the forementioned buſineſs of reading the Scriptures when his eyes were ſo bad.

25. He was exceeding contented with any mean diet, and to be ſure he would not touch a bit of any thing till he had begged Gods bleſſing upon it.

26. He would put his Brother and Siſter upon their duties, and obſerve them whether they performed it or no, and when he ſaw any neglect, he would ſoon warn them; if he ſaw any of them take a ſpoon into their hands before they had craved a bleſſing he ſaid that is juſt like a Hog indeed.

27. His Siſter was afraid of the darkneſs, and would ſometimes cry, upon this account; he told her, ſhe muſt fear God more, and ſhe need then be afraid of nothing.

28. He would humbly put his near

near Relations upon their duty, and minding the concerns of their Souls and Eternity, with more ſeriouſneſs and life, and to have a care of doing that which was for the diſhonour of God and the hazard of the Soul.

29. He was of a compaſſionate and charitable diſpoſition, and very pitiful to the poor, or any that were in diſtreſs, but his greateſt pity was to poor Souls; and as well as he could, he would be putting Children, Play-fellows, ſervants, neighbours, upon minding their poor ſouls.

30. One notable inſtance of his true charity, I cannot omit. A certain Turk was by the providence of God caſt in the place where he lived, which this ſweet Child hearing of, had a great pity to his Soul, and ſtudied how he might be any way inſtrumental to do it good: at laſt finding a man that underſtood the language

guage of the Turk, he uſed means to get them together, which he at laſt procured; the firſt thing that he did, was to put his friend upon diſcouſing with the Turk about his principles, whether he acknowledged a Deity, which the Turk owning; the next thing he inquired after, was, what he thought of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt. At which the Turk was troubled, and put of the diſcourſe, and ſaid, he was athirſt and an hungry; which the Child being informed of, by the Interpreter, immediately went to a Brew-houſe near at hand (his own houſe being far off) and did intreat the Maſter of the Brew-houſe to give him ſome Beer for the Turk, and the argument he uſed was this; Sir, here is a poor ſtranger that is athirſt, we know not where we may be caſt before we dye; he went to another place and begged food for him; uſing the ſame argument

gument as before, but his friends hearing of it, were angry with him, but he told them he did it for a poor ſtranger that was far from home, and he did it that he might think the better of the Chriſtians, and the Chriſtian Religion.

31. He would have a ſavoury word to ſay to every one that he converſed with, to put them in mind of the worth of Chriſt and their Souls; and their nearneſs to Eternity. Inſomuch, that good people took no ſmall pleaſure in his company. The Taylor that made his clothes, would keep them the longer before he brought them home, that he might have the benefit of his ſpiritual and Chriſtian ſociety; and more frequent viſits.

32. He bewailed the miſerable condition of the generality of man-kind, (when he was about ten years old) that were utterly eſtranged

eſtranged from God, though they called him Father, yet they were his Children only by Creation, and not by any likeneſs they had to God, or intereſt in him.

33. Thus he continued walking in the ways of God, ingaged in reading, praying, hearing the word of God, and ſpiritual diſcourſe, diſcovering thereby his ſerious thoughts of Eternity.

34. He had an earneſt deſire, if it might be the Lords good pleaſure, to give himſelf up to the Lord in the work of the Miniſtry, if he ſhould live; and this out of a dear love to Chriſt, and Souls.

35. He was (next to the Bible) moſt taken with reading of Reverend Mr. *Baxters* works eſpecially his *Saints Everlaſting Reſt*; and truly, the thoughts of that Reſt, and Eternity; ſeemed to ſwallow up all other thoughts, and he lived in a conſtant preparation for it, and look'd

look'd more like one that was ripe for glory, than an inhabitant of this lower world.

36. When he was about eleven years and three quarters old, his Mothers houſe was viſited with the Plague; his eldeſt Siſter was the firſt that was viſited with this diſtemper, and when they were praying for her, he would ſob and weep bitterly.

37. As ſoon as he perceived that his Siſter was dead, he ſaid, the will of the Lord be done. Bleſſed be the Lord, dear Mother, ſaid he, you muſt do as *David* did, after the Child was dead, he went and refreſhed himſelf, and quietly ſubmitted to the will of God.

38. The reſt of the family held well for about fourteen days, which time he ſpent in religious duties and preparing for his death; but ſtill his great Book was the *Saints Reſt*; which he read with exceeding curioſity, gathering many obſervations

out

out of it in writing for his own uſe. He wrote ſeveral divine meditations of his own, upon ſeveral Subjects, but that which ſeemed moſt admirable, was a meditation upon the excellency of Chriſt; he was never well now but when he was more immediately ingaged in the ſervice of God.

39. At fourteen days end, he was taken ſick, at which he ſeemed very patient and cheerful; yet ſometimes he would ſay that his pain was great.

40. His Mother looking upon his Brother, ſhaked her head, at which he asked, if his Brother were marked; ſhe anſwered, yes Child? he asked again, whether he were marked, ſhe anſwered nothing; well ſays he, I know I ſhall be marked; I pray let me have Mr. *Baxters* Book, that I may read a little more of Eternity before I go into it. His Mother told him that he was not able to read; he ſaid,

that

that he was; however then pray by me, and for me; His Mother anſwered, that ſhe was ſo full of grief, that ſhe could not pray now; but ſhe deſired to hear him pray his laſt prayer.

41. His Mother asked him, whether he were willing to die, and leave her; he anſwered yes, I am willing to leave you, and go to my heavenly Father. His Mother anſwered, Child, If thou hadſt but an aſſurance of Gods love I ſhould not be ſo much troubled.

42. He anſwered, and ſaid to his Mother, I am aſſured, dear Mother, that my ſins are forgiven, and that I ſhall go to Heaven, for ſaid he, here ſtood an Angel by me, that told me, I ſhould quickly be in glory.

43. At this, his Mother burſt forth into tears. O Mother, ſaid he, did you but know what joy I feel, you would not weep, but rejoyce. I tell you I am ſo full of comfort, that

that I can't tell you how I am; O Mother I ſhall preſently have my head in my Fathers Boſome, and ſhall be there, where the *Four and Twenty Elders caſt down their Crowns and ſing Hallelujah, Glory and Praiſe, to him that ſits upon the Throne: and unto the Lamb for ever.*

44. Upon this, his ſpeech began to fail him, but his Soul ſeemed ſtill to be taken up with glory, and nothing now grieved him but the ſorrow that he ſaw his Mother to be in for his death; a little to divert his Mother, he asked her, what ſhe had to Supper, but preſently in a kind of Divine Rapture, he cried out, O what a ſweet Supper have I making ready for me in glory.

45. But ſeeing all this did rather increaſe than allay his Mothers grief, he was more troubled, and asked her, what ſhe meant, thus to offend God; know you not, that it is the hand of the Almighty. *Humble your ſelf under the mighty hand of God,*

God, lay your ſelf in the duſt, and kiſs the rod of God, and let me ſee you do it in token of your ſubmiſſi- to the will of God, and bow be- fore him. Upon which raiſing up himſelf a little, he gave a lowly bow, and ſpake no more: but went chear- fully and triumphingly to Reſt, in the boſome of Jeſus.

Hallelujah.

FINIS.

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